WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 1997

IN THE TABLOID **BRIDGET JONES:** HER POLITICAL CONFESSIONS



IN THE TABLOID: FACHIOR **HOW TO MAKE SUMMER** SHEER BLISS

IN THE TABLOID **THOMAS** PYNCHON AT SIXTY

The Old Lady breaks free

Y Nurder! murder! Rape! murder!
To you Villain! what have I kept my Honor untainted so long, to have it broke up by you at last?
O Mondar! Rape! Rarishment! Rain! Ruin; Ruin!



Anthony Bevins Political Editor Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

Gordon Brown yesterday freed the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street, the Bank of England, from effective political control in the most dramatic possible illustration of the new Labour Government's cracking pace.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said it was the most radical action that had been taken on the Bank in 300 years.

Loan rates were increased by a quarter-point to 6.25 per cent after Mr Brown's first and last monetary meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Some of the biggest lenders, including the Halifax and Cheltenham and Gloucester, raised mortgage rates immediately, adding £13 a month to the cost of a typical £50,000 loan.

Most commentators expect further increases in the next few months, with the decision resting fully with the Bank from

On the first full day of the new administration after the Bank Holiday weekend, the Chancellor brought forward his regular meeting with Mr rate rise and the Bank's freedom irom ireasury control delote announcing the decisions at an llam press conference.

With Tony Blair set to address the first televised meeting of the new 419-strong Parliamentary Labour Party this morning, amid a demand that MPs maintain the tight discipline which won them their seats, a deluge of decisions poured out of Whitehall departments. On top of the Chancellor's announcement the department of David Blunkett the Secretary of State for Education signalled action to dismantle the nursery voucher scheme. Home Secretary Jack Straw ordered an audit of

Jack Cunningham made the first move towards creating a Food Agency and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said a conference would be held on Bank of England holdings of Nazi

While Mr Brown's announcement of Bank freedom united Labour MPs from left and right of the party, Tory divisions continued. Former Chancellor Norman Lamont congratulated Mr Brown on a

be welcomed", while former Home Secretary and Tory lead-ership contender Michael Howard deplored it. The move got a rapturous welcome in the financial markets, which sent

shares soaring to a new record. Mr Brown told The Independent it was the Government's responsibility to set the economic framework, monetary policy and the inflation target. But he added: "What has bedevilled the British economy is that we have had repeated cycles of sions right." Mr Brown insisted

boom and bust - stop-go economics that have been responsible for a great deal of instability that has bedevilled businesses and families.

"I am now putting in place, however, what I believe is a long-term framework that will demand most confidence, that will give credibility to monetary policy decisions and will also enhance the reputation of the Government and the Bank of

Value-Added Tax on domestic fuel and heating bills to 5 per cent in the July Budget and hinted at making a start on a new 10p tax band.

The main aim of the press conference was to spell out arrangements for a new monetary policy committee at the mittee. Bank of England to set rates by majority vote.

Appointments to the committee will be announced soon. be appointed after the appropriate legislation has been passed. The committee will answer to the Bank's Court, its board of directors, which will be altered to reflect a broader range of interests. The Bank also will be answerable to MPs on the Treasury Select Com-

Gavyn Davies, chief econo-

mist at Goldman Sachs, seen as front-runner to succeed Mr George, said: "This is the ide-A second deputy governor will al form of independence. It is

about as far as you would want

to go in our political system."
The City broadly welcomed the interest rate rise and the Bank's independence, with slight reservations about the risk of political appointments to the new committee. The reaction from industry was more

cautious. The CBI welcomed the Bank's independence but said it was looking for tax in-

creases in the first Budget. The Chancellor admitted yesterday that the strength of the pound created a dilemma, but said delivering low inflation

was in industry's interest.

The Bank opened on July 27, 1694 with £1.2m capi-

tal to finance William III's

war with France. The idea came from a Scotsman.

It began business in a single rented room in the Mer-

cers' Hall in the City of

London, with a staff of 19.

It moved to Threadneedle

The name The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is

thought to originate from a

wooden sign of Britannia displayed outside the bank in the 1670s. The image

was quickly picked up by cartoonists like Giliray.

The first Governor was Sir John Houblon, whose por-

trait now appears on a

commemorative £50 note,

and whose livery - red

waistcoat and pink coats

s still worn by the Bank's

doormen and messengers

The Bank was nationalise by Labour in 1945, it was giv

en real freedom yesterd

... by another Scotsmar

The way it was: "Political ravishment" by James

Gillray, etched exactly 200

under attack from Pitt the

Younger. Many politicians

Street in 1734.

Bad news for home owners? Not longer term



Independence day at the bank Photograph: Tom Pilston

Page 11

Gordon Brown's surprise present of its independence to the Bank of England looks, on the face of it, like good news for traders in the City of London and bad news for homeowners. A higher level of interest rates means more expensive mortgages, and an inde-pendent Bank is likely to increase rates several times more before it is satisfied that inflation is on target.

But this is one of those moments where to focus on the short-term cost ignores very real long-term gains. Yesterday there was already some sign of these in the fact that the long-term interest rates the Government has to pay on its own debt had fallen sharply. That means an immediate saving for the taxpay-

ponent of government spending.

The real benefit, and the one that makes yesterday's announcement a turning point in the history of British economic policy, is the fact that inflation is lower and growth more stable when central banks, and not politicians, set interest rate policy. If we truly want to end the pattern of boom and bust, this is one of the most effective means of achieving it.

For all Ken Clarke's improvements to the policy machinery, Britain still has one of the most volatile economies, and one of the highest inflation rates, in the industrialised world. There is little doubt that this is in large part due to a greater proneness to using both evers of economic policy, monetary and fis-

cal, for political ends. Giving the Bank its independence has mortgage for now for the likely savings later.

er, with debt interest the fifth biggest com- made it all but impossible for politicians to manipulate interest rates in a narrow, shorttermist way in future. It is unthinkable in practice that a future Chancellor would be able to reverse Mr Brown's decision. This will mean, over the course of many years, lower and more stable interest rates, and lower

mortgage costs.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said the Chancellor's prudence would extend to setting taxes and spending for the long-term. "I would hope the commitment to the responsible policy he has shown today on the money policy side, I would hope that will carry over into the fiscal side too," he said in central banker-speak. Mr Brown has sent the strongest possible signal of his long-termism. It is worth £10 a month on the

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QUICKLY

Missing boy's death Relatives of schoolboy Christo-pher Scott said they believed the 11-year-old died trying to swim for help for his two friends when they became trapped on treacherous mudflats, as the search for Nathan Sawyer and lan Smye was called as night fell yesterday.

Mobutu to fly out President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire was preparing to leave his palatial residence on the banks of the Congo last night. It is believed he is leaving Zaire, the nation he has plundered for 32 Chief Political Correspondent

The champagne flowed, and Michael Howard toasted the deal he thought he had struck with William Hague to form a dream ticket for the leadership of the Conservative Party.

Mr Hague had agreed at 11 o'clock on Monday night, over drinks in Mr Howard's grace and favour flat in Belgravia, that he would be the deputy leader and chairman of the party, giving Mr Howard an unstoppable run at the leadership. . The celebratory drinks were Mr Hague's support.

shared with Mr Howard's wife, Sandra, Mr Hague's girlfriend, Ffion Jenkins, 28, and Sir Michael Spicer, Mr Howard's

campaign manager. But the champagne feeling turned flat at 8am yesterday when Mr Hague, 36, rang the former Home Secretary to tell him that, having slept on the idea, he had second thoughts he was running for the leadership, and the deal was off. Mr Howard was furious, but

After confirming Mr Hague had had second thoughts, Mr Howard said he did not rule out were a large number of issues Mr Hague joining his shadow Cabinet if he was elected leader. "I have the highest opinion of Mr Hague," he said. "I cer-

Howard's champagne pact goes flat

tainly intend that he should play a part in the team." He added that there could also be places for two of his declared rivals for the job - Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood, who also launched his put a brave face on it yesterday.

campaign yesterday Mr Howard said that it would as he announced his intention to run for the leadership without be "silly" to pretend that he and

on which they were agreed.

The champagne supper, like a party that got out of hand, left both camps with a bad hangover, and embarrassment on all sides. The opposing Lilley and Redwood camps could not hide . their glee at the set-back for both Mr Howard and Mr Hague. "It just shows that they still couldn't organise a p***-up if they tried," said one Redwood

campaign supporter. There had been intensive Mr Clarke agreed on everything talks over the telephone for the

past three days, about Mr Hague throwing his support behind Mr Howard.

"It was agreed over the tele-phone that William would be the deputy leader and chairman of the party. They were really only agreeing the details of the campaign. The meeting lasted about an hour and they broke out the champagne to celebrate. It was obviously a winning ticket.

"William rang Michael early this morning to say it was off," said one of Mr Howard's supporters. "The whole thing is unfortunate."

Redwood quest, page 6



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significant shorts

Pilot killed on photography mission in Scotland

A light aircraft on a photographic assignment crashed into a field vesterday, killing the pilot. The white twin-seater Cessna 152 took off from Cumbernauld airport, 10 miles north of Glasgow, at around 8.30am and was heading for Denny, near Falkirk, when the accident happened. It ploughed into a field yards from the B818 road two miles from Denny about 15 minutes later. Central Scotland Police confirmed that the pilot had died and efforts were heing made to identify the pilot.

Pet bakery rouses lethal fears

The RSPCA is warning pet-lovers about the dangers of killing their pets with kindness after the launch of Britain's first dog bakery selling gourmet biscuits and birthday cakes. PetsMart has opened at Europe's largest pet superstore in Raynes Park, London. Those wanting to treat their pets can chose from a pack of eight minipupcakes priced at £3.60 to a two-tiered seven-inch sponge cake decorated with bones and paw prints for £15.98. But an RSPCA spokesman said: "Dogs should not be stuffed with cakes."

1066 and all that goes electronic

The Public Record Office, which houses paperwork dating back to the Domesday Book of 1068, will move into the modern world this week when it goes electronic. But only new documents will be stored on the PRO's new computer system. About 900 years of historical documents will remain tucked away in the estimated 90-miles of shelves within the depths of the PRO at Ruskin Avenue, Richmond, London. When the EROS, Electronic records from Office Systems, becomes available to the public on Friday, the only record on offer via computer will be part of Lord Nolan's report from the Committee on Standards of Conduct in Public Life.

Essex firefighters stirke again

Firefighters were last night launching their seventh strike in a long-running dispute over spending cuts. Around 1,000 members of the Fire Brigades Union in Essex were walking out at 1800 hours for the latest 24 hour strike in protest at £1.5m-worth of cuts.

Conran wins sole rights to Zinc



The right to own a bar called Zinc was won by Sir Terence Conran, the restaurateur, vesterday. Sir Terence beat off rival Vince Power, who owns the Mean Fiddler chain of

concert venues. The design guru had resorted to legal action after claiming Mr Power's new bar, Zn. formerly known as Zinchar. infringed his trade mark Zinc. The mark was registered in

Sir Terence in June 1995. But in December last year, Mr Power opened a bar in Kilburn High Road, London, called

After protests, the name was changed to the chemical symbol for zinc, which Sir Terencefound unsatisfactory. Mr Power's bar will have to change its name. Under the order, he cannot use Sinc, Sync or ZN in addition to Zinchar and Zn.

Louise Jury

Raving Monster's mother dies

Annie Sutch, mother of Screaming Lord Sutch the founder of the Monster Raving Loony Party, has died aged 80, her family said. Mrs Sutch, who encouraged her only son to stand for Parliament and helped put together his colourful costumes, died at Loudon's Northwick Park Hospital last week.

Lord Sutch, 56, pulled out of the general election campaign to be at his mother's side after she fell ill. Lord Sutch, whose real name is David, said: "She meant everything to me. I can't believe

Police shock over officer's suicide

A promising young police officer, tipped by colleagues to reach the top of his profession, has committed suicide. Fellow officers discovered the body of Detective Chief Inspector David Bass, 33,

at his East London home on Sunday evening.

Det Ch Insp Bass, who was based at Limehouse Police Station was due to be promoted to Superintendant, making him one of the youngest in Britain to hold that rank.

A colleague said: "David was a very impressive young man who'd probably have ended up as the youngest chief constable in the country. Everyone is very upset."

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996



Margaret Atwood: Novel tells story of notorious murderer (Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid)

American authors writ large in Orange order of merit

elists are on the shortlist for the £30,000 Orange Prize for fiction, open only to women writers. The American E. Annie Proulx, winner of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize, and the Canadian Margaret Atwood, three times shortlisted for the Booker Prize, are among the

six writers competing for the prize, set up last year to raise the profile of fiction by female writers. Ms Prouix, who published her first novel in 1991 at the age of 56 and won the Pulitzer Prize for The Shipping News is included for Accordion Crimes, a tale of inemigrant life in 20th-century America, constructed around

the journey of an accordion and those who own It. Margaret Atwood's novel Alias Grace is based on the truestory of one of 19th-century Canada's most enigmatic and notorious characters, murderer Grace Marks. It was favounite for last year's Booker Prize, but

lost out to Graham Swift's Last Orders. The other novels in the running for the prize, which will be awarded in June, are: One by One in the Darkthat we have been a ness by Deirdre Madden; I Was Amelia Earhart by Jane and live readings."

Mendelsohm, Fugitive Pieces by Anne Michaels, and Hen's Teeth by Manda Scott. Three of the four are first

In an extension to the usual format of literary awards, the shortlisted authors will read from their books at a public reading, two nights before the prize-giving, and there will be an Orange web site for readers to give their opinions on the books.

A spokeswoman for the prize organisers said last night: "It's true that the prize was set up to raise the profile of women novelists. But it doesn't matter at all if there are high-profile and high-selling authors on the shortlist, as the prize will bring them to the attention of even more readers.

Kate Mosse, administrator of the prize, commented: "Our aim was always to create a prize for readers and bring a breath of fresh air to the established literary landscape. I'm particularly excited at the inter-national flavour of this year's shortlist and I am delighted that we have been able to extend our range of debates and live readings."

David Lister.

Hamilton's wife tells of stress caused by defeat

Christine Hamilton (right), wife of former MP Neil Hamilton, yesterday admitted that the stress of his defeat had left her depressed and sleepless, and that she had lost a stone-and-a-half in weight.

The couple both lost their jobs when "anti-sleaze" candidate Martin Bell took Mr Hamilton's Tatton seat in the general election. Mrs Hamilton was her husband's secretary and had worked in Parliament for 27 years.

In a live appearance on BBC1's Kilrov discussion programme, 47year-old Mrs Hamilton said: "Of course, I am depressed but I am also very optimistic. We have just got to pick ourselves up. We are absolutely exhausted.

"It is when you wake up in the middle of the night that it is worst. Nature wakes you in the middle of the night, and then I can't get back to sleep. I have lost a stone-and-ahalf over the last six months. We

have had a hell of a time for months. Mr Hamilton, 48, compared the loss of his seat to the death of someone close: "It is akin to a bereavement. I feel as though I have been bereaved in a sense, because my career is something I've wanted to do since the age of 12 or 13."



The Hamiltons said they felt angry rather than ashamed and were looking forward to being exonerated by the publication of the

Downey report into sleaze. The couple won a generally sympathetic hearing from the studio audience. But some suggested that Mr Hamilton would find the experience of claiming benefits under the rules introduced by the

old Tory government a rude shock. One woman told the ex-MP, who said he had not yet signed on: 'You haven't been into a JobCentre under the Job Seekers' Allowance? You don't even know you're barn yet."

College welcomes graduate, aged 103

A 103-year-old woman is set to become the oldest person to receive a degree certificate from Cam-

bridge University. Molly Maxwell will collect the award at a special ceremony on her 104th birthday, on Tuesday -80 years after she finished her studies at Cambridge.

Mrs Maxwell, who now lives in a nursing home in Golders Green. north London, began studying modern languages at Newnham College in 1914.

She competed her studies in 1917 and left with an "honours" certificate - women were not allowed to receive degrees and become members of the university until 1948.

Now the university has said women who completed degree courses prior to 1948 can be given certificates. And Mrs Green has asked if she can be given her just

reward at long last.
"She asked the nursing staff to get in touch with us and we were delighted to help," said a Cambridge University spokesman.

"She completed the degree course and the certificate is really just a formality.

"She will certainly be the oldest person to receive a degree certificate from us."

COUNTRYSIDE

Pesticides decimating farmland bird population

"Not so much a Dawn Chorus, more a barber's shop quartet." The description yesterday by broadcaster and naturalist Julian Pettifer of the dearth of bird song outside his Berkshire home reinforced the findings of a report linking pesticide use and the decline in numbers of farmland birds.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds wants the new Government to encourage industry to develop pest-specific chemicals and to tax pesticides according to their impact on

With insects and seed-bearing weeds killed off, the chicks of several species are being starved to death, suggested the report by two Government advisory

bodies, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and English Nature, and the

Underlining what many ornithologists have long suspected, the report identified 11 endangered species, including skylark (down 58 per cent in 25 years), lapwing (down 62 per cent) and song thrush (down 73 per cent). Stephen Goodwin



INTERNET

Royal web site proves popular

The official royal website has been visited 12.5 million times in its first two months on the Internet, Buckingham Palace disclosed yesterday. The 165-page site, launched by the Queen on 6 March,

was accessed 1 million times in the first 24 hours.

And now the site has been extended, with a further 85 pages of royal history, profiles and speeches, illustrated by pictures from the Royal Collection. Computer users around the world, who are connected to the Internet, can now access the history of the British crown, for the price of a local telephone call.

National curriculum history advisers have collaborated with the Palace to write the text of the pages, covering the Anglo-Saxon kings to George VI. In addition, users can access a rare letter written by George III in the 1780s on the loss of America, and Edward VIII's abdication speech of December 11, 1936.

The web site address is: http://www.royal.gov.uk

Prickly outlook for hedgehogs

The perils of life as a hedgehog were highlighted yesterday by a study which showed that up to 75 per cent face an early death largely because of the hazards of the human environment.
Of 12 released into the wild in Surrey, only three were definitely still alive 15 weeks later, the research found. The animals dispersed

widely - over distances up to 3km. Six died in accidents, including three hit by cars, while one, having done well for 71 days, drowned in a steep-sided garden pond. One became the unlucky victim of a badger.

Dr Nigel Reeve, a lecturer and researcher at Rochampton Institute, London, who carried out the study, wrote in Nature Line, the magazine of Surrey Wildlife Trust: "We must be very concerned that a hedgehog's life seems to be so dangerous. Of seven recorded deaths, only one was the result of a failure to thrive and all other mortality was accidental."

TRANSPORT

Women afraid to travel by train

Women should be free from fear when travelling by train and more should be done to make journeys safer for them, according to a ort published vesterday. Women wanted to know that help at hand from well-trained and visible staff, the report added.

Poor carriage layout, doors and windows not opening, and badly designed overhead racks were just some of the problems cited. The report - by the south-east England section of the working women's group Soroptimist International – calls for measures to make the communication cord easier to reach on certain trains, emergency help points on every station, better public information and better carriage design.

TECHNOLOGY

Microchip giant moves forward

The giant microchip manufacturer Intel has launched its next generation computer processor, the Pentium II. The new chip has been designed to make best use of "visual computing", a step forward in business computer use which Intel expects to be widely used in the next few years.

Graphics and pictures are expected to become more important in the way people present information, with 3-D graphs replacing spreadsheets full of numbers. As systems become more visual and reliant on graphics, existing computers will work slower because they cannot cope with the graphical content.

Intel claims its new microchip anticipates these changes. It will be installed on new computers as from now, and although it will. add to their cost, one company executive said the extra money was



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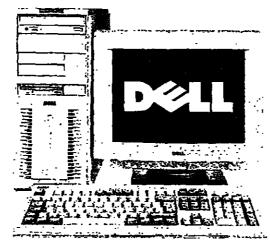
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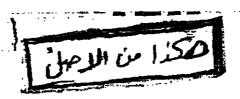


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PENDENT 5376

BBG TOO masculine GGG Too middle-class FEE TOO middle-aged

What Channel 4's new chief executive had to say about his former bosses

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

The BBC was accused of talking in a voice that is too middle-aged, too masculine and too southern yesterday by the man who was running its television channels until last Friday.

Michael Jackson, the new chief executive of Channel 4 and former director of television and controller of BBC 1, made the comments as Channel 4 was showing him off to the press at its London headquarters, Mr Jackson, who will take over from

Michael Grade on 1 June, told jour-nalists: "One of the areas that BBC TV is weak in is talking to women as opposed to men, talking to young people and talking to people outside the South-east of England."

He contrasted this with what he thought were Channel 4's strengths: "They're to do with the relationship with an audience that trusts Channel 4 which knows that the channel is on

A BBC spokesman later said that he was puzzled by Mr Jackson's com-

He added: "BBC 1 has the most halcaster. BBC2, having trounced Channel 4 over the last three years is now seeking to reinforce its strengths by appealing more to women and

But the lobbying group Women in Film and Television welcomed Mr Jackson's comments. "We're delighted that at his maiden press conference he has recognised the importance of a commitment to women as an audience and we look forward to an increased profile for women on all channels," a spokeswoman said.

"It is not that there are never any programmes about women or about life north of Watford," said Tessa Perkins, principal lecturer in media at Sheffield Hallam University. "It is the fact that the way they are dealt with is as if they are a departure from the normal, male, southern world."

She added: "Channel 4 targets niche audiences directly, it is part of its remit. The BBC thinks of niche audiences not in terms of women, youth or regions, but in terms of the Clothes Show, the Food and Drink Programme of Gardener's World. Minorities are more like hobbyists."

Stephen Barnett, senior lecturer in communications at the University of Westminster, said that the BBC has its own research which confirms Mr Jackson's comments,

"It is perceived by the young as too regions as too London biased, the big broadcasters who make up ITV Although I would argue that few see have recently been looking for a new it as too male," Mr Barnett said. chief executive who will turn ITV into "The BBC has been aware of this for a limited company rather than the censome time. And it is trying to change." tre of a loose federation.



Two ages of BBC women: The fifties presenter, Sylvia Peters, and Jill Dando, who is among the most widely favoured female broadcasters today

Man who has date with destiny



Michael Jackson: Wrote his thesis on radical innovation

Rob Brown Media Editor

When the founding chief executive of Channel 4, Jeremy Isaacs, handed over control of the station to Michael Grade, he issued this stern warning to the cigar-chomping impresario: "I am banding on to you a sacred trust. If you screw it up, if you betray it. I'll come back and throttle you."

As far as we know, Michael Grade has not been moved to issue a similar threat to Michael Jackson as he prepares to succeed him in what he and many others many others regard as the best job in British broadcasting.

Mr Jackson has seemed almost :-desimed for this position since he penned a thesis on the need for a radical innovative minority network as part of his BA in Media Studies at the Polytechnic of Central London (now the

University of Westminster). He was organiser of the Channel 4 Group which successfully lobbied for independent producers to play a key role in getting the station up and running. Still only 39, Mr Jackson cer-

tainly gave the impression that his date with destiny had arrived yesterday when he was paraded before the press at Channel 4's headquarters near Victoria station, in central London.

"I have a huge attachment to Channel 4. I lobbied for it in its early days and I've watched it grow in strength and professional ism over the years," he confidently asserted, adding that his chief challenge would be to lead the refresh and reinvigorate its pro-

Would that involve ditching programmes like The Girlie Show, which Mr Jackson, in his days in

charge of BBC2, once denounced as "sapping of originality" and "putting packaging before pro-

Predictably, the new boss refused to discuss the merits or demerits of individual programmes before meeting the station's commissioning editors. "But my comments on The Girlie Show are a matter of public record," he added rather ominously.

He was also ultra-careful too asked about the future of its director of programming John Willis, whom he pipped for the chief executive post and with whom he once traded insults. Mr Willis branded him a "copycat criminal" after he had described Channel 4 as the iaget channel Decause of its od sessive desire to appeal to upwardty mobile young males. But, all is fair in love and ratings wars, apparently. "I have a great respect for John," enthused Mr Jackson.

The virtual pet that provides companionship at a stroke

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

It is a pet which needs tenderloving care, constant feeding and strong discipline but it can fit in your pocket and doesn't

need taking for walks.

This week sees the inevitable conclusion to our fast-moving. convenience-obsessed world. .The cyberpet - a pocket-size chick which has taken Japan by as an animated line drawing on

shops from next Monday. Nearly 4 million Tam-

agotchi", or " loveable eggs", have been sold in Japan to date and the manufacturer, Bandai, plans to sell 13 million over the next year.

The toy looks like an eggshaped key ring but has a vir-tual reality chicken, represented

storm – will be launched a small LCD screen. It may be tually relieving itself. The creatonight, and be available in the a virtual pet, but its makers say ture begins life as a Bebitchi the creature requires as much attention from its owner as the average cat or dog.

Invented last year by a Japanese housewife, Aki Maita, it imposes a hard regime on its owner, demanding to be virtually fed, virtually exercised and virtually amused by emitting a va-nety of electronic sounds. It even requires cleaning up after vir-Interactive Digital Pet Tamvirtually amused by emitting a va-

("Babesy"); the aim is to keep it alive for as long as possible, watching it grow through various stages of life right to maturity as an Oyajitchi ("Grampsy"). A Tamagotchi lives for between 10 and 30 days. When its time is up

Mr Jackson also hinted strongly that

Channel 4 will be less dependent on

shows from the United states like

Friends and ER than under his pre-

said. "At the end of the day, the chan-

back into British production."

down from his job later this year.

Mr Plantin has controlled schedul-

wars for American shows.

the chicken icon transforms it-

ton, or when its owner plays peek-a-boo with it. But it also defecated and when it is used to provide discipline.

Although the toy was initially marketed at schoolgirls and working women, Japanese busi-

agotchi"-squeaks with delight when fed by the press of a but-crèches have been set up in Tokyo to let high-flyers leave their pets under supervision warms the owner when it has and bereavement counsellors are even being asked to help naughty another button can be people through the unexpected passing of their pet.

Two books of advice on caring for the tamagotchi have already been published and the nessmen have been seen caring demand is creating a new breed for their pets on the subway. of Tamagotchi criminals. The

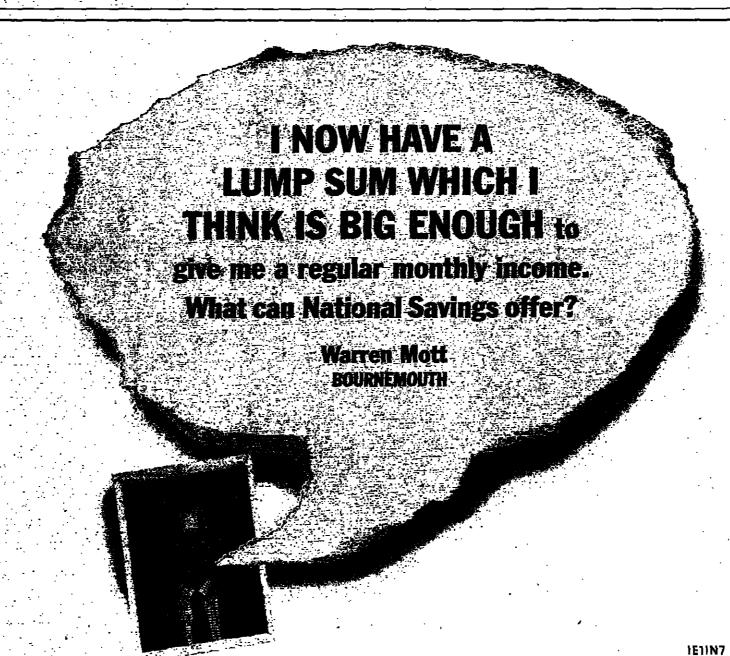
pet will retail for £10.99 here --but in Japan Tamagotchis are selling for up to 10 times their value on the black market.

So seriously are cyberpets taken in Japan that in Tokyo earlier this year a helicopter, several patrol cars, and a dozen police officers were involved in the pursuit of members of a gang who had made off with a Tamagotchi. The four thieves turned out to be 14 years-old.



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Accused

care

worker

'doing a

good job'

A care supervisor accused of

ill-treating mentally disabled residents always seemed to get on well with them, a colleague told a court yesterday. Judith Smelt, formerly the office administrator, said Lorraine Field "had a good rap-

port with [the residents] and they all seemed to be very fond Mrs Field, 42, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, has denied four counts of ill-treating residents at two residential

homes formerly run by a com-pany called Longcare in the

Another former member of

staff, Desmond Tully, 33, of

Exeter, Devon, also denies

four charges of ill-treating residents. And former com-

pany director Angela Rowe,

39, of Windsor, Berkshire, de-

nies two counts of ill-treating

and two of wilfully neglecting

Kingston Crown Court also

heard testimony from current

colleagues of Mr Tully that he

has "done a good job" at a

home he now runs in Devon.

the prosecution, Jonathan Ca-

But in his closing speech for

Fo:

residents in her care.

Louise Jury

Wreck may be world's oldest ship

Divers in Hampshire believe they may have found the oldest ship in the world. Carbon dating shows that wood found on the sea bed off Hayling Island. is 6.431 years old.

If, as divers who made the discovery hope, the wood turns out to come from a ship, it means they have found one of the oldest wrecks known - pre-dating

the Pyramids and Stonehenge. The wood has been discovered by members of the original diving team who located the Tudor warship Mary Rose which was lifted from the Solent off Southsea, also in Hampshire.

The team members have stuck together and, while investigating a Roman causeway in 1992, a short distance along the coast at Hayling, they found the pieces of wood, which they hoped might come from a Roman ship.

Initial analysis showed the wood was older than the 15th century and came from either a very cold or very not climate, but only recently has carbon dating on the wood been carried

The mind-boggling thing is it is not 2,000 years old as we were hoping, it turns out to be 6,431 years old," said a member of the team, Don Bullivant, 64, yesterday.

"We don't really know what we have got. It could be a clump of trees, which we think is unor it could be a ship. We are hoping very much for it to be a ship.

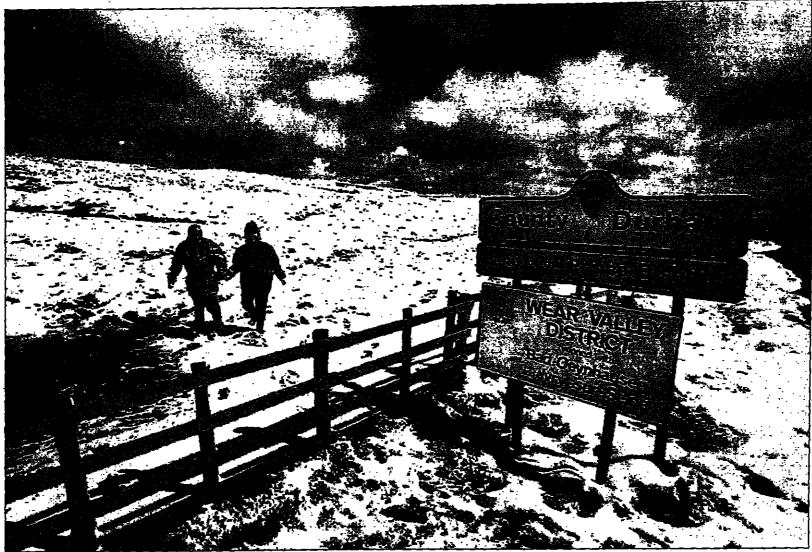
Electronic soundings of the site - it is about a mile off Hayling Island and its exact iocation is being kept secret -show what could be the shape of a vessel, although they could be misleading said Mr Bullivant.

"Hopefully it is a ship. If it is, we have the oldest ship in the world. The earliest recorded at the moment is 4,000 years old," he said. Six thousand years ago, he said, the Solent was a river. and the team has asked experts on the period for their help in

identifying the wood. Meanwhile they intend to return and carry out a further survey of the site, about 20 feet below the surface, and plan to get a second opinion on the age of the wood.

It is not clear as to whether the site would have been dry land or shallow water at the time, and the likelihood of a 100ft long vessel existing in northern Europe at that period is extremely remote.

The oldest boat yet found anywhere in the world - a large dugout canoe - was made 8,000 years ago in what is now the Netherlands, but it is known that humans were carrying out ocean voyages of 200 miles 25,000 years ago, and 50 mile sea journeys as long as 60,000



London witnessed its first May snow shower for nearly 20 years yesterday as the country slipped back into

winter's icy grip.
Snow flurries dusted the capital, which spent much of late April basking in sunshine and temperatures in the reported a sleet shower on its roof. The now was the first in May since 1979. Many other parts of Britain were

plunged back into wintry conditions, and many roads, like the one shown above in Co Durham, were covered by snow. Although it was quick to melt, heavy falls of snow blocked roads in

the Scottish Highlands and North Wales as temperatures dropped to around 7C below the May-time

Half an inch of rain fell over Norwich and London - the biggest downpour since February and more than fell in the capital during the whole of

March and April. Forecasters warn of frost in many areas tonight more cold weather to come - which will worry farmers and gardeners.

The AA warned drivers to keep their speed down and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front.

plan QC, said the jury must assess the "compelling" evidence against all three

defendants. This case is not about best practice, how best to run residential care homes for the mentally disabled. It's a case about falling below what is acceptable in running such homes and falling into the realms of the criminal law," he

He added that caring for the mentally disabled could be "demanding, frustrating, pos-sibly risky, but that does not give anybody who has such a person in their care a license to ill-treat that person or to neglect their welfare".

Bid to swim for help cost boy his life

Michael Streeter

Relatives of schoolboy Christopher Scott said yesterday they believed the 11-year-old died trying to swim for help for his two non-swimming friends when they became trapped on treacherous mudflats.

As the search for Nathan Sawyer and Ian Smye, who are still missing, was called off a second time as night fell yesterday. more details emerged about

their tragic outing. The trio had set out for a Sunday bike ride on the bleak Lincolnshire coastline of the Humber Estuary. The area, south-east of

Grimsby, is criss-crossed by gullies which can be swiftly filled by the incoming tide and it is feared that the boys became trapped and then swept away. Hopes have virtually disappeared that Nathan, aged nine, and Ian, who would have been 10 yesterday, will be found alive. parents when they failed to return home, but it was not until the next day that the body of Christopher was spotted by a rescue helicopter crew.

A post-mortem examination was being carried out yesterday; police say they believe he

Valerie Scott, Christopher's grandmother. Valerie, said she thought that Christopher had died trying to save his friends.

The alarm was raised by their "I believe that the other two assembly yesterday at the boys could not swim and Christopher could. We think he tried to come back and get help. He would have tried to save his friends because he was like that

and they were all very close." She said the boys knew that the mudflats were dangerous... but added: "They were aware but I don't think they really un-

derstood what danger is. This is just a terrible thing to happen." Prayers were said at a special

school in their home village of North Coates. A police underwater search

team joined the hunt yesterday and will be involved again today when the search resumes. At RAF helicopter and specially trained dogs will also be used. Coastguard John Harrison admitted that hopes of finding

the boys alive had passed. "After this length of time i is highly unlikely," he said.

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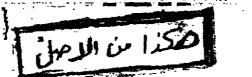
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care worker doing a cod job



Cabinet potential: Pupils from Broadhurst School in Hampstead, north London outside No 10 Downing Street yesterday during a visit

Photograph: Pebecca Naden/PA

Commons freshers shown the ropes

Political Correspondent

By the end of the week they will have been inducted, tagged, administered, sworn in, lectured to and accommodated. They will be given a handbook,

a video, a car park pass and endless cups of iea. Some of the new boys and girls in the House of Commons say it feels just like the first

more grown up. compare the ex- into a euphoric round of introperience to freshers' week at university. After two years "in the sixth form" as a Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and six weeks' heavy preparation for the final exams on election day, they have finally arrived.

Some were always confident that they would make it to Parliament, but many believed just five days ago that they would be returning to normal life by now. day at school. Others, feeling Instead they have been thrown

ductions and practicalities.
There are 262 new members

– more than at any time in living memory. Among them are 190 Labour members, 42 Conservative, 29 Liberal Democrat and one - Martin Bell - independent. Mr Bell, like the other opposition MPs, is being herded around by the opposition whips, Labour MPs by the

Sergeant at Arms' office has set Peterborough from the Tories. up an exhibition for the new members and is providing backup material to help them find their feet. Before they can settle down to work they must get security passes, offices, secre-

taries and researchers. Yesterday, about 50 new Labour members from across the South and Midlands gathered in a conference room to be told the ropes. Among them was Helen Brinton, a teacher, who won

"We know all there is to know about being candidates, but we don't know about being MPs," she said.

Post-election camaraderie has broken out across party lines among the new members, and Mrs Brinton has even found herself a "pair" in the accommodation queue - a Tory with whom she will agree nights off. With a Labour majority of 179, many on her side of the house

will not be so lucky. Chris Pond, former director of the Low Pay Unit and new Labour member for Gravesham, says the induction process feels "like being" back in short trousers," but is delightedly organising a Kent Labour MPs group - not possible with the previous total of

two but now plausible with eight. Among his new Kent colleagues are Paul Clark, new Labour member for Gillingham,

Sittingbourne. Mr Clark, a TUC training centre manager, and Mr Wyatt, director of the computer channel on Sky Television, might both reasonably have expected to go back to their old jobs this week. But both say they knew they could win.

Most of these new members are already relishing the job ahead, and while a few admit to feeling a little caught up in the confusion of these first days, and Derek Wyatt, member for others are ebullient.

Fiona Mactaggart, new MP for Slough and former chair of Liberty and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, already has her Parliamentary interests mapped out.

"I have spent quite a lot of time in this building. I have actually, in a former job, got a House of Commons' select committee to change government policy. But even if I hadn't done it before I would never be intimidated," she said.

Foster quits over Cabinet post snub

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Tony Blair suffered his first ministerial resignation yesterday, just four days after coming

Derek Foster, a former Labour chief whip and Shadow Cabinet member, was clearly angry that he had not been offered the Cabinet post he said id been promised. He de cided to stand down despite having accepted a job as Minister of State at the Office of Public Service, and it is understood he may now stand for election as Deputy Speaker.

"On reflection, after Saturday's appointments, I felt I might have more to offer in other ways and I will have an announcement to make in due course. I am perfectly happy with the outcome," he said. Peter Kilfoyle, an education

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spokesman in Opposition, becomes Public Services Minister, but he takes on simply a junior ministerial rank. Mr Foster, an elected chief

whip, was one of many senior Labour figures who were bitterly disappointed at being offered jobs less senior to the ones that they shadowed in opposition.

Andrew Smith, the shadow transport secretary and Michael Meacher, shadow minister for environmental protection, were

Political Correspondent

There will be no separate min-

ister for women in the Labour

government, it was confirmed

yesterday, but Tony Blair has

broken new ground by appointing Britain's first minister for public health.

The Prime Minister has kept

his promise to make the role of

minister for women a cabinet

post by giving the responsibility to Harriet Harman, the Social

Security Secretary, despite the

fact that her job also requires her

to control the biggest budget of

State at the Department of

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any Whitehall department. Tessa Jowell, Minister of



election as Deputy Špo

also in the Shadow Cabinet but not in the Cabinet. Further down the ranks, a large number of junior shadow ministers are jobless or have more junior positions. Of 76 people who held Shadow Cabinet or ministerial positious,

17 have been demoted or

Both Janet Anderson, who was formerly shadow minister for women, and Graham Allen, a former spokesman on constitutional and environment matters, will go to the whip's office.

For the rest, the only posts left are in the whip's office or at PPS level, the very bottom rung of the ministerial ladder. Among those who were still of them said.

Jowell to be Britain's first

guardian of public health

Health, was yesterday given re-sponsibility for public health, the

first time the specialty has been

recognised at ministerial level.

One of her first tasks will be to

implement a ban on tobacco ad-

vertising, to which Labour is

Labour promised last year that there would be a minister

for women within the Cabinet,

possibly with the title of Chan-

were Keith Vaz, former shadow minister for planning, Tom Pendry, former shadow minister for sport, and Lewis Moonie, another shadow minister at National Heritage.

Although Mr Blair has put a large number of women in his ministeriai teams, several have been left out. Among them are Joan Ruddock, former shadow for environmental protection Llin Golding, former shadow for food safety and agriculture and Ann Coffey, former shadow health minister.

However, there were jobs esterday for Mark Fisher at heritage, Alf Dubbs, now Lord Dubbs, at Northern Ireland and for Andrew Hardie, QC, as Lord Advocate and life peer. Some of the disappointed

ones claimed yesterday that the system was unfair. People who had previously worked for "big hitters" such as Gordon Brown or John Prescott could expect their former bosses to fight their corners

for them, they said. "It seems all this is done in a very random way. There's no ent there's no merit involved, it's who you know and if someone liked your face.

"No one actually sits down and says this is what we think about your performance," one

National Commission.

Last night, a spokeswoman

for the Fawcett Society, which

lobbies for a stronger role for women in public life, said that

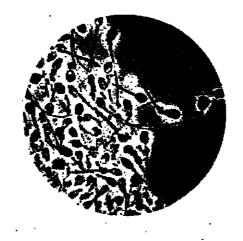
while it was pleased women had

a voice in the Cabinet it was also

worried about how Ms Harman could do the job properly. "We

are concerned that there is no

other minister outside the Cab-



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cellor of the Duchy of Laninet to take that responsibility. caster. She would be backed by We need someone pushing very hard from outside and giving a team of civil servants in the Harriet the information she Cabinet Office, according to its policy document, "Governing needs," she said. for Equality". Under the Conservatives, A spokesman for Ms Harman said she had always had a strong focus on women's issues and would relish the new opportu-

women's affairs were based at the Department of Education and Employment under Gillian Shephard, who delegated dayliant opportunity for her to pick up a range of issues. These to-day responsibility to ber jumor minister, Cheryl Gillan. She had six senior civil servants working under her. Under Labour, women's is-

sues will be the preserve of the Department of Social Security. It is not yet clear what will happen to the civil servants in the including two in the Cabinet. Commenting on Ms Jowell's sex and equality division, but there are some indications that their team will be split between

the two departments. Four could remain in the education and employment department working on legislation and on Equal Opportunities Commission issues, while the other two might go to social security to deal with international women's affairs, "main- ty and the environment."

nity. "Her view is that it is a bril-

are central to her agenda, and having the responsibility at Cabinet level is something she is very keen on," he said. Labour has 18 women ministers including five in the cabmet, while the Tories had 10

appointment, Donald Reid. chief executive of the Association for Public Health, said he was delighted that for the first time Britain had a minister for public health. "But better public health depends on more than one minister. It will depend on all the policies which affect bealth including those on pover-

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blair's britain

Fun-seeking Redwood goes in quest of converts



A lighter shade of blue: John Redwood preaching the merits of his 'broad church' campaign for the Tory leadership yesterday

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

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Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Redwood yesterday launched his campaign for the Tory party leadership committed to recreating a "broad church" which was "fun".

"I have to show they can win again and it is fun," he said.
"One of the depressing things over the last five years is that we have not had enough fun in Conservative politics. We have to rekindle a sense of fun."

Mr Redwood, seen by many as a rather austere intellectual, may be regarded as the most un-likely "fun" candidate in the leadership campaign. But the extent of the Tory defeat, leaving the Tories with only 165 MPs to chose the new leader, has left Mr Redwood with little option but to widen his appeal from the Thatcherite right

wing of the party.

He set out his new strategy by positioning himself more to the centre-right of his party, with a commitment to match Tony Blair's success in reviving his party's fortunes by consulting the grass roots. He also gave a pledge to listen more to the soundings from the 1922 Committee, which was decimated at the election.

Although he fought the general election on a personal pledge to reject the single European currency, Mr Redwood surprised a press conference at the Goring Hotel, near Westminster, by saying there was a lot he and the former Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke could Rejecting a single-issue cam-

paign, Mr Redwood said: "I don't want a factional party, ob-

sessed by one issue ...
I do want a broad appeal. I pelieve that the Conservative Party is a broad church. It must stay as a broad church. The great problem is we don't have enough worshippers at the moment. We have to find more worshippers. You don't do that on one issue or one theme."

He carefully avoided the mis-

take made in his 1995 challenge to John Major for the leadership of being surrounded by the whipless" Euro-sceptics - including the now deposed Tony
Marlow in his striped blazer and
Teresa Gorman – although the
Euro-sceptics, John Wilkinson
and David Wilshire, were there He will not get the backing of any former Cabinet minus ters, and the test will be the number and quality of middle ranking ex-ministers who come out in his support.

He had to settle for senior backbenchers, Andrew Hunter, the former chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, and Marion Roe, former minister and past chairman of the Commons select committee on health

Promising to reveal more support later, Mr Redwood said: "We will be doing the dance of the seven veils. It is so much more exciting that way."
The National Health Ser-

vice and improvements in education are high on Mr Redwood's campaign agenda. But he also sought to focus the Tories in Opposition to attack the Government over Europe, insisting Robin Cook should have reached a deal to protect the jobs of British fishermen before moving to sign the Euro-

pean social chapter.

The campaign is also likely to hear much of the Tory success in Wokingham in taking 19 council seats out of 26 while the Tory party was facing "carnage across the rest of the country. Mr Redwood said it showed that with good local organisation the Tories could remain popular with the voters.

He admitted the party has a tall task in reducing the average age of its members from over

He wants to revive the grass roots, but he is against constitutional reform in the party, which he said would risk plunging the Conservatives into a rancorous internal dispute of the sort that kept Labour in opposition throughout the 1980s.

EU rewards Britain with opt-out deal

Sarah Helm Brussels

Britain was yesterday rewarded for pledging to sign the Euro-pean social chapter with the offer of a generous "opt out" from new open-frontier laws. paving the way to a possible deal

on the next European treaty. The Government's pledge on Monday to accept social legis-lation spurred Britain's partners into publishing a draft text on pooling justice and immigration powers which the Gov-

ernment can probably accept. Although it has long seemed likely that Britain would be allowed to keep its internal frontier controls for other European Union nationals - while all other member states lift theirs - the text published yesterday contains the first firm proposal on how this would work.

Current power-sharing in areas of immigration control and home affairs, carried out by some EU countries under the so-called Schengen agreement, is now to be incorporated into the EU machinery. However. the text recognises that Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, "because of their specificities" cannot

be bound by the arrangements. The "specificities" referred to constitutes the first clear recog-nition by other EU states that Britain's island status, and tra-

ditional relian checks for immigration and crime control, does make it a special case in this policy area.

The "opt-out" offer is therefore not made reluctantly, as the social chapter opt out was in the Maastricht Treaty. Rather, it is a recognition on the EU's part of the need for sensible flexibility, and could signal a turnpoint in the way negotiations on integration are conducted in future. Furthermore, the "opt-out" offer is far more generous than had been expected while the Conservative government was in power.

Britain is, effectively, to be allowed to pick and chose, which areas of home affairs and immigration power-sharing it wants to be a part of. There are aspects of the new arrangements which Britain wants to share in, namely police co-operation and tougher anti-asylum checks at external borders.

Britain "may, at any time, accept some or all of the provisions ..." says the draft pro-

Despite the clear attractions of the new ofter, prepared by the Dutch government, which currently holds the EU presidency, British officials warned against talks of an early agreement in this area. The officials clearly believe Britain can still squeeze a better deal before the Amsterdam summit in just six weeks time.

Kansas City

By Linda France

On a quiet one off the main drag, it's dark outside the rinky-dink De Luxe a wired indigo of twinklers, shadows

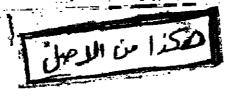
that might be driftsmoke if only Old Fireball was cutting some rug. The slammer is shut like a kisser

that doesn't dig liquor any day of the week. It's fish-black unlucky, hawk's out with his axe; but we know

when we fall in there'll be scumpteen fish to blow our lids, glistening scales and hot pepper, some solid juice to wash it down.

We've been saving our rocks all week. Let's hit that belly-chord. Shake out your vine and shimmy like a foxy fish.

This poem appears in Storwille, Linda France's third collection, which is published tomorrow by Bloodaxe Books (£6.95). The volume's title sequence, from which "Kansas City"



blair's britain

Tony Banks, the man the PM failed to gag, on the joys and otherwise of his first day at work



Minister for Sport finds his office: 'It's like a cell'

it yesterday. Officials were waiting all

morning to escort their new minis-

ter to meetings with Chris Smith, the Secretary of State. But when Mr

Banks finally turned up at 2pm, he brushed them aside. Flouting the

edict by Alastair Campbell, the

Prime Minister's press secretary,

that interviews with ministers must

bottle of Rolling Rock beer, he pro-

nounced on life, politics and football.
Wembley Stadium was "crap", he de-

clared. Despite his elevated station,

Mr Banks has no plans to tone him-

self down. "I've not been made For-

eign Secretary, where diplomatic language is essential," he said. "I shall be using the language of sport, which does get colourful from time

impromptu press conference. Perched at a table, swigging on a

Kathy Marks

The chauffeur-driven limousine drew up outside the colonnaded entrance to the Department of National Heritage. The back door opened, and a jaunty figure in jeans and Doc Martens jumped out. The new Minister for Sport had arrived for his first

صكذا من الاجل

Tony Banks was an hour late, ha ing dropped in at Upton Park, West Ham's football ground, for a photo-call. The delay gave his civil servants the jitters, given his admission in a radio interview earlier in the day that he had no idea where his new office

For Mr Banks, a maverick leftwinger, the job offer was a bolt from the blue. But the job itself could not have better suited the MP for Newham North East, a fanatical Chelsea supporter. "It's like going to heaven without dying," he said. The Department of National Her-

The men from the ministry were

getting restless. It was time for Mr Banks to get acquainted with his workplace. He entered the building. "Posh, innit?" he observed, looking round at the mirrored foyer with its pot plants and waterfalls

By the time he reached his office, a spartan room with net curtains, he had recovered his sang-froid. "God, this is a bit rudimentary, isn't it? It's like a prison cell. I don't think much be approved by him, he took off to the nearby Sports Café for an of the trappings of office so far." Glancing down, he added: "Nothing in the out tray, nothing in the urgent tray, nothing in the pending tray, just the way it should be."

Mr Banks's new job will present him with some difficult conundrums. What if a Council of Ministers meeting should fall on 17 May, when Chelsea meets Middlesbrough in the FA Cup Final? "You must be joking. Nothing would stop me going to the Cup Final unless I was dead. And if was dead I'd want my ashes taken

Clamp on briefings could backfire

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Attempts to impose a rigid disannouncements and policy initiatives could rebound and lead to an increase in leaks, according to senior civil servants.

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary. is seeking to ensure that all major announcements of government policy and even interviews with ministers are co-ordinated through his office. Ministers are also supposed to notify Downing Street if they go to lunches with journalists or meet them informally for off-the-record

Both current and former civil servants reacted with a "seenit-all-before" attitude, saying that this type of strong central control has been attempted in the past but proved unworkable.

Indeed, they point to similar injunctions from Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, who also wanted similar co-ordination of the government's publicity machine. A press officer in a major de-partment during the 1980s said: "Ingham tried to exert control and issued instructions, but within a few days we started ignoring it because people outside

No 10 would sneer at it." There were typical Civil Service ways of ignoring the in-struction, he said: "We would simply carry on turning a blind eye and if No 10 questioned it, we would just say - 'Oh, sorry, didn't we tell you'."

However, unlike Mr Ingham. Mr Campbell is not a civil servant but a "special adviser", an overtly political appointment, which civil servants feel is a bet-

ter arrangement. There is fierce departmental loyalty from both civil servants and ministers who will resist too much pressure from

It is not only the independence of the government departments which will prevent Mr Campbell from achieving his sought after hegemony, but the sheer volume of government work. A senior Labour source said: "It's not like being in opposition when you are not actually making any decisions that affect anybody. It's the whole government machine."

An average department such as transport or environment might put out up to 600 press releases and even if the Goverument sensibly reduced this number by half, the sheer volume would be impossible to

A head of information explained: "The previous government tried to co-ordinate announcements through Michael Heseltine's committee, EDCP.

"But they would do stupid things like decide the day something should be announced without anyone from the relevant department being consulted and they would find that the minister was abroad, or that an outside group involved in the launch would not be avail-

He added: "The real problem is that if you delay an announcement to, as they put it, co-ordinate the government message, it risks leaking out in a completely unplanned way. You can't sit on things because



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firm over VAT Sarah Helm to disappear. Behind the im-Brussels mediate disagreement lies the Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, broader, highly contentious, question of how far member yesterday reaffirmed his comstates should be expected to demitment to cut VAT on heating velop common tax levels. The Commission's longfuel, despite warnings from Brussels that the move could standing efforts to harmonise breach the spirit of European

common tax rules. However, Mr Brown and the European Commission seemed determined to avoid a direct clash over the issue for as long as possible.

Brown stands

Mr Brown has made clear duce VAT on domestic fuel that the Government's legal advice states that the move is in no way illegal under EU law. To abandon a manifesto pledge so soon after the election would clearly be unthinkable for the so far concentrated on indirect Government. For its part, the European Commission concedes that the move is not "illegal" as such, but simply contrary to the objectives of tax

harmonisation directives. There is clearly little desire on the Commission's part to crack the whip at a time when hopes of consensus on a range of other key issues are higher than they have been for many years. Nevertheless, the conflict

VAT levels have been largely in-effective. A minimum of 15 per cent has been set for most products, but how binding this figure is remains open to interpretation. Britain wants to refrom 8 to 5 per cent.

The European Commission, along with member states, is pressing for more harmonisation in tax levels. Efforts have taxes, such as VAT, but harmonisation of certain direct taxes is also planned. Pressure for greater co-ordination has increased in the run-up to economic and monetary union.

If the Commission decides to get tough, it could take the Government to the European Court of Justice. And if other meinber states thought Britain was being let off the hook, they could go to the court.

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New ministers keep their promises

NAZI GOLD

Louise Jury

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday announced that Britain was ready to host an international conference on Nazi gold.

In one of his first steps in his new post, he acted quickly to ful-fil a piedge made to Jewish organisations who have lobbied for joint international action to settle the affair.

He also strongly hinted that the remaining war-time gold, due to be returned to governments whose reserves were looted by the Nazis, could go instead to victims of the Holocaust.

The pool was likely to have included personal gold from Jewish victims of Nazism, such as that found in the teeth of concentration camp victims, a new report from the Foreign Office admitted yesterday.

Jewish organisations have long claimed that the Allies failed to distinguish between personal gold, where efforts should have been made to return it to individuals, and that which belonged to governments.

They hailed yesterday's report as further proof that the £46m of gold still held in the Bank of England and in the American Federal Reserve should go to

make amends for that failure. Mr Cook made clear his intention to resolve quickly the question of the remaining gold, which has been held under the Tripartite Gold Commission of America, France and Britain

since the end of the war. He said there had rightly been international concern about the fate of the gold looted by the Nazis, and that: "One of the responsibilities of those living now is to ensure that the truth is known about that dark period in Europe's past."

Unveiling the Foreign Office report into what happened to gold found in the British sections of Germany, he said it was clear that some gold taken from individual victims of Nazism may have found its way into the pool.

This strengthens the case for looking imaginatively for ways of compensating the victims or their direct descendants."

A spokeswoman for the Holocaust Educational Trust said it welcomed the report. "It says there were errors made and that it was understandable. We've never said anything other than that. We now need to look at ways to correct it."

It was widely known that the Germans had melted down gold looted from individuals, but the report shows this was effectively ignored for practical reasons. However, the Bank of England has advised the Foreign Office that it would have been possible to detect large amounts of dental gold if tests had been carried out.

The report highlights the problems, faced by officials working in Germany, caused by inadequate definitions of what was monetary gold - broadly bars



and coins – and non-monetary gold – that taken from victims. Back to work (from top left, clockwise): Robin Cook, David Blunkett, Jack Cunningham and Jack Straw

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

NURSERY VOUCHERS

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

Education ministers began work yesterday on plans to dismantle the Conservatives' nursery voucher scheme as soon as possible. They are studying options for switching money from the scheme, which gives the parents of all four-year-olds £1100 worth of vouchers a year, back to the local authorities.

Work will start shortly on developing partnerships between local authorities, private nurseries and voluntary groups to run childcare and nursery education. Legislation to end the scheme is unnecessary, but there will be a Bill to end the assist-

to reduce class sizes for five- to seven-year-olds. Talks with local authorities on ways of cutting class sizes will begin almost at once, although no money will be available until next April.

Raising standards and improving basic literacy and numeracy will be the centrepiece of the White Paper to be published in June. A Bill in the autumn will also end grant-maintained status, and former opted-out schools will have the choice of becoming foundation schools, voluntary-aided like church schools or returning to council control. Foundation schools will have greater freedom than local authority schools but will have to appoint local authority governors.

However, ministers say there will be consultation with grant-mainThe Bill will also lead to parents in Jason Bennetto areas with grammar schools being able Crime Correspondent to vote on whether they wish to keep

a selective system. State for Education, will meet Sir Ron as a "matter of urgency", it was dis-Dearing, former chairman of the closed yesterday. Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority, this month about the fu- overcrowding and cutting the escature shape of higher education. Sir lating prison costs. It is expected to Ron's review is not due until July, so lead to closer ties between the Home the Queen's Speech will include a gen- Office and Prison Service and give eral enabling clause foreshadowing ministers greater responsibility for opchanges in student loans and erational and policy decisions. university structure.

ambitious pledges: how to get 250,000 population and need for extra acyoung people off the dole and into ei- commodation. Private companies ther jobs or training using money from that have already signed contacts to

An audit of the finances and running David Blunkett, the Secretary of of the Prison Service is to be set up

The review is aimed at reducing

Labour must also decide whether Today, ministers will announce to ditch its opposition to private jails plans for fulfilling one of their most in order to cope with the rising prison

PRISONS AUDIT

tinue. The number of people in jails in England and Wales has just reached the record 60,000 mark.

It also became clear yesterday that an extra 40,000 handguns are almost certain to be banned - making all revolvers illegal. MPs are expected by October next year to be given a free vote on banning the small calibre .22 revolvers that remain legal, said Home Office sources. Labour has already backed an all-out ban and with its huge majority, most of whom are opposed to the ownership of firearms, a vote against handguns is a certainty. The cost of compensation is likely to be at least £12m.

Jack Straw, the new Home Secretary, said vesterday that his Crime and Disorder Bill, to be announced next

youth crime and neighbour nuisances. Clearly enjoying his new job, he added: "Four days in Government is

better than 18 years in Opposition." Supporting Mr Straw at the Home Office is Alun Michael, who will be responsible for police matters: Joyce Quin, who will deal with prisons, asylum and immigration; Mike O'Brien, immigration case work; George Howarth, drugs, detailed prison issues and the fire service: and Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Lords and constitutional issues.

Later this week, Mr Straw will meet the director general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt. Meetings with Metropolitan police commissioner Sir Paul Condon and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Sir David Rams**FOOD FIT** TO EAT

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

An independent food standards agency will be the first priority for a reorganised and renamed Ministry of Agriculture, its new head Dr Jack Cunningham

pledged yesterday. He added that the Government would also seek a "positive and constructive" dialogue with the EU over the ban on British beef exports.

Dr Cunningham's vision for the ministry was one that was "more open" and with more consumer voices, he said. He was due to meet Professor Philip James of Aberdeen University last night to discuss the report on food safety commissioned earlier by Tony Blair.

A period of consultation would then be followed by legislation "as soon as the business timetable allows", but Dr Cunningham refused to speculate on how long this would take.

MAFF would also be reorganised as people likely to be involved in the food agency move over there. Dr Cunningham revealed that the ministry would be renamed but said the new name had not been finalised.

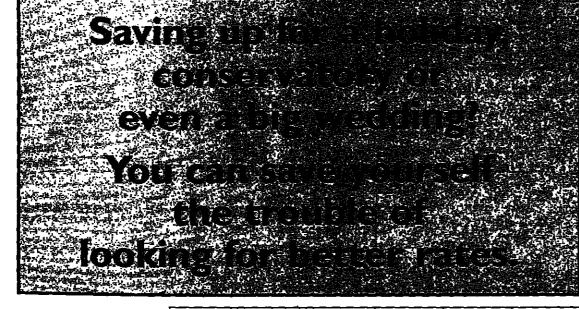
He also promised that reports on food safety would be made available to the public: "I have already given instructions to my department that any issue concerning public health and wellbeing must be brought forward immediately."
On BSE he said that he

would not flinch from tough decisions to be made over the world-wide ban on British beef. He said he planned to go to Brussels on Monday for introductory meetings with the EU Farm Commissioner, Franz Fischler, and the Fisheries Commissioner, Emma Bonino.

He said he would not put specific proposals to the commissioners on Monday, but pledged the Blair government would make a "fresh start" on tackling the BSE crisis.

He added: "In general, I think the Labour government has a better chance of doing constructive business with the EU, full stop, whatever the issue, simply because we shall be

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Programme falls into place

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The Queen's Speech, the Government's parliamentary programme for the next 18 months, is expected to include action on hereditary peers and a Freedom of Information Bill when it is de-

livered next Wednesday.
The Prime Minister's office said yesterday that Tony Blair had already held a number of meetings on the speech, and a Commons Chamber, they draft was well advanced. would then feel free to break the

Because of the timing of the election, the parliamentary year will not end, as usual, this auturn, but will continue until the autumn of next year - giving a longer run for the legislation on core commitments like education, and law and order.

Early action will be required to set up the devolution referendums for Scotland and Wales. to give specific popular blessing to legislation which would then

be put to Parliament. One advantage of the referendums is that they could provide a democratic mandate for the Government to divert Bills away from the Commons Chamber into "upstairs" committees denying opponents the chance to

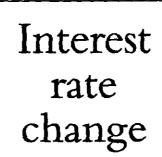
clog up the parliamentary works. Some peers are arguing that if Labour breaks the convention that constitutional legislation should be dealt with in the convention that the Lords does not oppose legislation specified in a manifesto. However, it is thought that some ministers would welcome a confrontation between a Labour government, elected with such a striking majority, and hereditary backwoodsmen from the Lords.

Labour promised a Freedom of Information Act in its 1974 manifesto, and it is therefore a pledge that has been reneged

upon before. But because Mr the assisted places scheme Blair has laid so much store in phase-out and new powers to be trust, and in saying that he will not promise anything he will not deliver, the current manifesto commitment on freedom of in-

On education, the Government has promised early action on nursery vouchers, class sizes, phase-out and new powers to be taken on school standards and local education authorities.

Law and order legislation will include "fast-track" hearings formation is said to be "firm". of cases involving persistent young offenders, and responsi-bility orders for parents of delinquent children.



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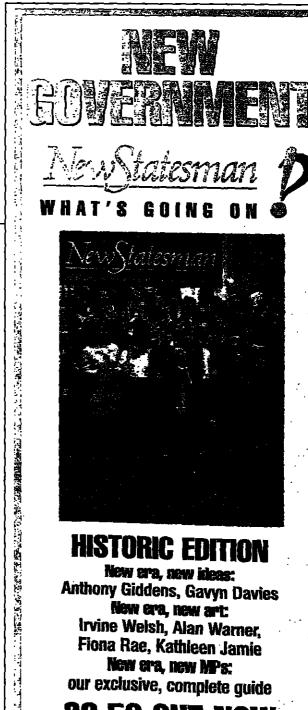
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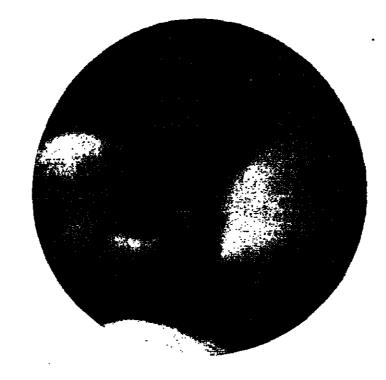
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Sedative cocktails fed to the elderly

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

A chemical cocktail of sedative drugs is being mass prescribed to elderly people living in nurs-ing and residential homes to keep them quiet and make make up 18 per cent of the popthem easier to manage, ac-

cording to a report.

The practice of "switching the patients out with the lights" is causing increasing concern says that the rapid growth in among medical and charitable prescribing to the elderly organisations, according to the report by the Royal College of Physicians. More than 90 per cent of residents of the homes are prescribed drugs, and nearly half are taking major tranquillisers and other sedatives.

Dr Michael Denham, consultant geriatrician at Northwick Park Hospital and chairman of the working party that produced the report, said there had been a six-fold increase in places in private and voluntary homes since 1983, fuelled by a 30 per cent decline in NHS longterm care, which had placed a severe burden on local GPs.

I fear that in some homes these drugs are being used like a chemical ball and chain to keep patients quiet. These are very frail physically and mentally ill people and virtually the entire lot are on medication, with a large proportion on sedatives. It is a growing cause for concern."

National guidelines on prescribing drugs in the homes should be reviewed and closer monitoring introduced, possibly by giving overall responsibility to one or two GPs for each home, the report says. Dr Denham cited the example of one resident who reported "feeling alive again" after being weaned off a

The report, Medication for Older People, says that the over-65s are being prescribed 50 per cent more drugs than a decade items prescribed to older people

has risen from 14.6 on average in 1985 to 21.8 in 1995. The cost of each prescription rose from £4.10 to £7.55 and accounted for almost half the increase in health authority drugs bills over the decade. Although older people ulation they receive 45 per cent

of all prescriptions dispensed. The report, an update of an earlier one published in 1984, suggests many patients are receiving inappropriate or un-necessary treatment as well as placing an increasing burden on the NHS drugs bill.

Adverse reactions are three times more common among the over-60s compared with the under-30s, mainly because they take more drugs. Innovations by the pharmaceutical industry have greatly increased the range of medicines suitable for older people but "more attention must be paid to making sure the medicines given are both suitable and effective," the report says.

Dr Denham said doctors under pressure tended to have a reflex response to certain conditions such as dizziness in older people and prescribe a tranquilliser without investigating further. "If you leave them on tranquillisers they may end up with symptoms of Parkinsonism ... There is a tendency to treat the symptom rather than the disease."

However, underprescribing is also a problem, driven by some doctors' ageist approach to treatment. The report says there is evidence that older people benefit more from drugs for heart con-ditions and high blood pressure than younger people, yet they are less likely to receive them.

"It is sad to note that ... the attitudes of some doctors [remain] fixed to the concept of chronological age rather than biago. The annual number of ological age - the capacity of an individual to benefit," it says.



Door of perception: The portrait of Prince Charles, by Michael Noakes, which is on display at the Mall Galleries, London Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Door into a royal psyche

David Lister Arts News Editor

The portrait is headed "HRH The Prince Of Wales, Patron of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, at Highgrove". It is perhaps the most unusual portrait yet of the Prince, with the artist attempting to stress his patronage of the Royal College by exploring a troubled psyche.

The oft-high painting shows Prince Charles, who is Patron of the Royal College, standing at the door of a drawing room in Highgrove, his Gloucestershire home. The artist is Michael Noakes, who has spent three vears working on the portrait. He has also painted Margaret Thatcher and President Clinton and is a past chairman of the Contemporary Portrait Society. He said yesterday: "I wanted to

avoid painting a proud Prince ... although it shows I hope a man with intelligence and humour, it implies too the sad side of his

He added: "I have done something that is unusual by any standards and that is unique with royal portraits, for the canvas is not a regular shape. It fol-lows the line of the architrave around the doorway and the angle of the open door itself: the base is shaped around the tip of his foot over the edge of a mat, and the angled view of that."

The painting is being exhibited at the Royal Society of Portrait

West Country cyclists set free from fumes

Stephen Goodwin

Heritage Correspondent

A 250-mile section of the stow, the West Country Way National Cycle Network opens today, guiding cyclists away from the fumes and snari-ups of car-borne tourists on a relatively-peaceful route from Padstow in Cornwall to Bristol and

The inauguration of the West Country Way will be followed later this month by the opening of a 370-mile east of England section from Harwich to Hull,

expanding the Network to a route follows quiet country total of 880 miles so far.

From the fishing port of Padwinds over Bodmin Moor to pass through Bude, Bideford and Barnstaple before rising to 2,000 feet over Exmoor.

Cyclists will get a taste of the strange solitude of the Somerset levels before climbing again over the Mendips.

Some 74 miles of the Way are car-free, following disused railway tracks, tow paths and for-

est trails. Elsewhere the signed

lanes - roads used by less than 1,000 vehicles a day - with just

short sections of busier highway. The West Country Way is one of the most scenic sections of the Network being developed by the charity Sustrans in partnership with local authorities. Funded by £43.5m of lottery money, the project aims to have at least 2,500 miles of safe

cycle ways open by 2000 and 6,500 miles by 2005. Ben Hamilton-Baillie, Sustrans' regional manager, said: the countryside and the quality of life in the South-west is concerned about the relentless growth in motor traffic.

"Developing cycle tourism will bring significant economic benefits to small communities without causing environmental

The West Country Way currently connects with the railway in eight locations. Improving links to stations and bike carriage on trains is a high priori-

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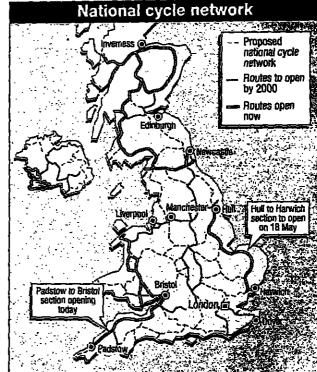
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Creation of the Network is a complex business. For most sections, 1997 is the year for detailed negotiations with landowners and local authorities. Every section which requires construction or upgrading has to be surveyed, negotiated, approved, designed, built and signed.
The Harwich to Hull section

was not planned to open until after the Millennium, but enthusiastic support from local across the wolds, fens and Norfolk Broads has been mapped and signed well ahead of schedule. The route takes in the old cathedral city of Lincoln and

However, the Network is not all about recreation or long distance touring. As important in reducing car journeys will be links through urban areas and between town and country. enabling people to cycle to work, to school and the shops.



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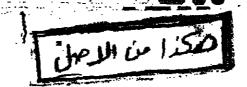
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Powerplay in Zaire: President's imminent departure prompts speculation as the French examine their post-colonial policy

Mobutu heads for Gabon and exile

Mary Braid

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Mobutu Sese Seko, the beleaguered Zairean dictator, was preparing to leave his presidential residence on the banks of the Congo last night to fly to Gabon for what officials insisted was a three-day summit with

neighbouring African leaders. But it is believed France will be the President's final destination and that he is leaving Zaire, the nation he has plundered for 32 years to amass a personal fortune, for the last

In the next few days, Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, is expected to take the Zairean capital, Kinshasa, in the climax to a seven-month military offensive in which he has seized with astounding ease most of the country. He has repeatedly warned President Mobutu, 66, who suffers from prostate cancer, to stand down or be removed.

Diplomats believe the President's meeting with leaders of Gabon, Congo and Togo is a face-saving device to allow him to be out of the country when Mr Kabila rolls into Kinshasa. "If you ask me ... I would say

he plans to make this a transit stop on the way to France," said a Mobuto aide who did not want to give his name.

But Mr Mobutu's flight would not guarantee a bloodless coup. Government ministers claimed last night that their forces were battling to retake Kikwit, the strategic town on the road to Kinshasa recently captured by rebels. They claim to have killed hundreds of rebel soldiers. If true, it suggests that the establishment – with or without Mr Mobutu - may still be prepared to fight for Kinshasa.

At Kinshasa Airport, Mr Mobutu's unpaid and sluggish soldiers were feeling the heat yesterday. They argued and shrugged in the dilapidated car park while younger skingy re-cruits in threadbare fatigues begged for dollars. As the rebels advance, the army becomes more edgy. But ordinary people - most of whom are desperately poor - were delighted to hear

of Mr Mobulu's trip. "I want Kabila to come," said Etienne, 35, a waiter in the VIP suite at the airport. He spent the week watching Mr Mobutu's cronies scuttle into exile dragging heavy cases.

Kabila has proved a strong man in a country where strong men are admired. But Vincent, a middle-aged Emigration Officer, is worried. Kinshasa, he says, will not fall without bloodshed and he still hoped for a political deal. The rebels, he warned, may not be Zaire's salvation. "They have killed refugees in the east and that is very bad. What we need is an election and though Kabila is popular Eti-enne Tshisekedi [the leading opposition figure] is still the most popular politician here."

CONGO



The long search: Rwandan Hutu refugees scan a notice board showing pictures of unaccompanied children at a transit camp near Kisangani, in Zaire

France loses its influence in Africa

John Lichfield

It is a view shared by

Madeleine, 25, an office work-er who fears one dictator may

be about to make way for an-

other. "Our leaders have not

loved our country," she said. "It

is hard to tell the good men

the sudden departure a few days

ago of eight of the President's

three weeks there, with body-

guards. Now that, they say, is a

ANGOLA

In the Intercontinental hotel,

from the bad."

hopeful sign.

staff gossiped last night about Is President Mobutu's ignominious departure a mortal blow for French policy in children who had spent the last Africa? Perhaps more accurately, it is a demonstration that the traditional French postcolonial approach to Africa - a kind of Machiavellian clien-

telism - is already dead. The collapse of the Mobutu regime may even bring bitter comfort to some in Paris - including the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé - who have long argued that it is time, in the interests of France and Africa, to adopt a fresh policy.

was acknowledged as the ultimate power-broker in Francophone Africa, initially in its former Belgian possessions of Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi.

At the weekend, Zaire's fate was negotiated aboard a South African warship by an American diplomat. The French ambassador to the neighbouring Congo, was allowed aboard but, according to the newspaper Libération was asked to "stay at

In the end, Mr Mobutu seems to have realised the limitations of French power. The President-for-life did not even inform the French government last week that he had decided, in principle, to give up office. Paris learnt of his intentions by reading the New York Times.

The Africanist old-guard in Paris, which has been running virtually a parallel foreign policy since President Jacques Chirac came to power two years ago, own former colonies, and then, tried to prop up Mr Mobutu unthey connived in January in a status quo. The minute scale of desultory attempt to put to- the operation - and its abject'

A French businessman who

helped to set up a rag-tag force of 80, mainly Serbian, mercenaries, and three aircraft, does appear to have been linked to the President's special African adviser, Fernand Wibaux. But diplomats in Paris believe that Mr Wibaux was acting without the backing of the Prime Minister and Foreign Ministry and even against the wishes of the President's chief-of- staff, Dominique Villepin, who is nominally in charge of Africa policy at the Elysée palace. President

Chirac's own role is opaque. Overall, it appears that the old African hands were acting from a stubborn instinct to meddle, rather than in any real from the 1970s onwards, in the til the end. There is evidence that hope of preserving the Zairean ceased to support the ruler of

African relations is over.

Much of the commentary in the French press, and by French politicians, has portrayed events in Zaire over the last six months as a triumph for a deliberate American strategy to destroy French influence in Africa. There is some evidence that

the United States provided logistical and material support for Mr Kabila. No doubt the US has its own reasons for doing so: Zaire is a richly-endowed country. But President Mobutu. during the Cold War, was as much an American client as a French one. US policy, if coherent at all, was as much driven by a belated recognition that Zaire, under Mobutu, was a corrupt and disintegrating basket case. Belgium also had

its former colony.

gether a mercenary defence failure – are, in themselves, champion him to the end, force against Laurent Kabila's evidence that an era of French- locked into a habit of supportlocked into a habit of supporting the "big men" of Francophone Africa, in return for economic advantage, but more importantly, because of a kind of amorphous addiction to political and linguistic influence on the continent. In truth, France gained less economic advantage from Zaire than Belgium or the United States.

In essence, French complaints that the US is driving events in Africa miss a crucial point. The events may be influenced by Washington, but they are being driven mostly by Africans. No amount of US aid could have produced such a rapid rebel advance across Zaire unless it was supported by Zaireans. On the other hand. without the tacit US support Paris received during the Cold



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international

Cook launches mission to make fresh start with Europe

Rupert Comwell

Taking the reins of his new job swiftly and firmly in hand, Robin Cook is planning an unprecedented "Mission Statement" to Britain's diplomats next week, aimed at motivating his staff and setting out the new foreign policy priorities of the Blair government.

After four hectic days of meetings and briefings in London, the first Labour Foreign Secretary in 18 years today makes his first foray into Europe, with brief visits to Paris and Bonn. He will hold talks with his French and German opposite numbers, as well as Lionel Jospin and Oskar Lafontaine, the leaders of the two countries' socialist opposition parties,

European foreign ministers in Brussels in a fortnight.

Mr Cook will project Britain's desire for a new start in relations with Europe, soured by years of stonewalling from the Conserva-tives. His long-desired message to foreign ministers Hervé de Charette and Klaus Kinkel will be that the new

ahead of a special meeting of Labour administration is ready to be next seven weeks of summits and more flexible over matters such as majority voting and a greater role for the Strasbourg parliament.

"A change in tone and some change in substance," was how officials described the new approach. The trip to France and Germany

ministerial meetings involving the EU, Nato, G-7, the WEU and the OECD. It will be capped by the Hong Kong handover ceremony at the end of June. In between he hopes to

visit Washington. A first unveiling of how Labour inraises the curtain on a bone-break-ing schedule for Mr Cook over the next week with a personal address by

Putnam, to be sent to British missions around the world.

Mr Cook wants greater representation of women and ethnic minorities at senior diplomatic levels and greater openness to the media. He will place new emphasis on

the Foreign Secretary to his staff.
Then a film of Mr Cook setting forth his goals will be made by Sir David strict curbs on arms exports to of fending regimes. Nigeria and Burma are obvious candidates. On arms control and a new round of reductions in nuclear weapons, a Labout government also may be much more activist than its Tory predecessor.

Bra

Asia puts military wares on display

Singapore — One of the many remarkable things about Singapore is that, despite its position at the heart of one of the most colourful continents, it makes South-East Asia feel

like a calm and orderly place. Here, chewing gum is a controlled substance, crossing the road off a zebra crossing can land you a £400 fine, and the streets are so clean that you could eat your dinner off them.

But this week, Singapore is hosting an event based upon the opposite assumption: that Asia is an increasingly vulnerable region. a continent of territorial rivalries and escalating mil-

itary expansion.
The event is known as Imdex Asia '97 (for International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference), a four-day event involving 300 companies from 18 countries, and thousands of visiting diplomats, defence procurement officials, serving officers and journalists.

Ten battle ships, from small attack craft from Brunei to the mighty British aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious, are moored in Singapore in support of their national industries. The exhibiting companies have paid as much as £80,000 to set up canals put together. growing number of regional arms fairs which now regularly take place in Korea, Indonesia,

Thailand and the Philippines. They owe their existence to a striking shift in military spending patterns; since the end of the Cold War brought drastic cutbacks in defence budgets in Europe and America, Asia is virtually the only place in the world where defence procurement budgets are consistently on the rise. The reasons for this were outlined by speakers at the

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Richard Lloyd **Parry** reports on arms firms cashing in on regional rivalries

exhibition and an associated conference on the theme "Protection of the Seaways".

With the end of the superpower rivalry, regional states are increasingly having to take responsibility for their own security against a variety of threats and destabilising influences in one of the most strategically crucial areas in the world. The dramatic economic growth of the South-East Asian countries over the past 15 years has made the security of its sea lanes more important than ever.

If the graphs climb at anticipated rates then, by 2010, onethird of the world's production will take place in East Asia. Already the Malacca Straits.

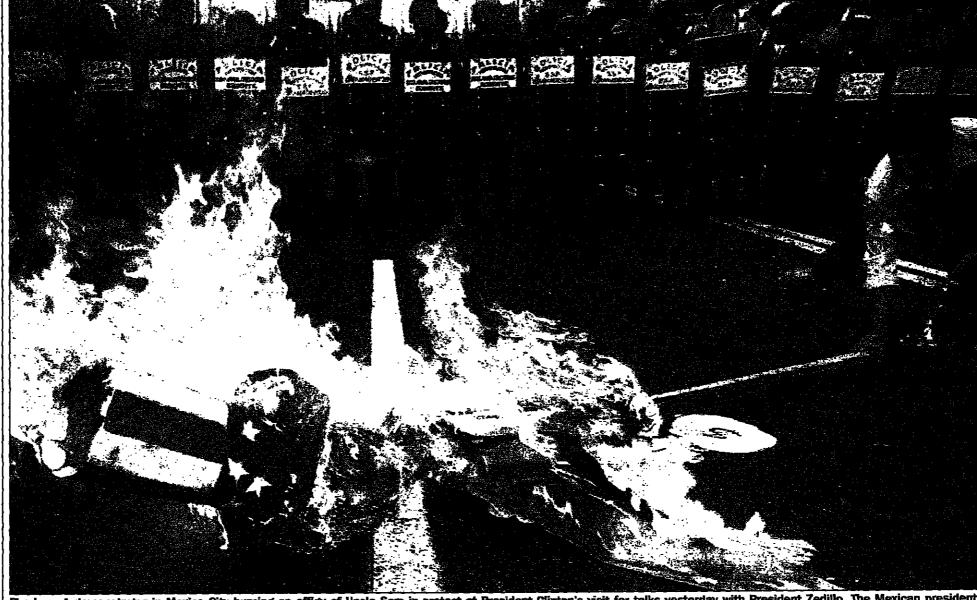
the narrow waters which divide the Indonesian island of Sumatra from Malaysia and Singapore, carry more ships every day than the Panama and Suez

cases of piracy (71 out of 94 world-wide in 1994) take place in Asia - but more disturbing by far are the flash points developing between nation states.

A striking number of these focus on islands. Yesterday, the Chinese foreign ministry protested after the latest in a series of visits by Japanese nationalists to a group of islands variously called the Diaoyu and the Senkaku and claimed by Tokyo, Peking and Taipei.

Last week. China and the Philippines renewed their claims to the even more embattled Spratly Islands - which are believed to contain fuel deposits and, which are also claimed by Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

But the region's principal source of tension is China, which over the past 20 years has raised the status of its navy to the most senior of the three services. China's ambitions to establish a continental "blue water" fleet by 2020 have stimulated an armament boom among the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).



Fired up: A demonstrator in Mexico City burning an effigy of Uncle Sam in protest at President Clinton's visit for talks yesterday with President Zedillo. The Mexican president

Doubts emerge over US 'balanced budget'

Republican leaders reached on a budget plan late last week. in three decades is looking conthere was prime-time televised euphoria on both sides.

Mr Clinton broke into a visit to Baltimore to rehearse the benefits of the deal to the media, while Newt Gingrich, Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, beamed and enthused their way through a special press conference at the Capitol.

For Mr Clinton, the chief victory lay in salvaging the Democrats' promised spending plans, including his own election promise to extend medical insurance to the country's 5 million uninsured children. Mr Gingrich's chief claim was to have "completed" his Contract for America - the governmentcutting, tax-cutting agenda on which the Republicans took control of Congress three years ago. For Mr Lott, the key was a balanced budget "by cutting spending not by raising taxes".

siderably less substantial than it did at the outset. There is criticism from the

tax-cutting right of the Republican party, hesitation from sections of the Democratic left and a general public scepticism about the feasibility of balancing the budget at all. One poll over the weekend had fewer than 20 per cent agreeing with the proposition that the deficit would be climinated by 2002. Some of the most qualified

criticism has come from Republican Senator, Phil Gramm, a disappointed tax-cutter who has been filling the airwaves to denounce the agreement. Likening himself variously to "a skunk at the garden party" or "Horatius keeping the bridge", Mr Gramm warns that the terms of the deal may raise the deficit rather than cutting it.

While Mr Clinton has spoken to have reached the objective of a balanced budget "by cutting over the five years of the agreement, Mr Gramm and his allies ask: What five-year agree-Less than a week later, howment?" What price the continever, the five-year deal to balance the budget for the first time uation of the agreement if the

Chorus of criticism dampens initial euphoria. Mary Dejevsky reports centrated in the last two years. Democrats win a majority in the

House of Representatives next year, or after the next presidential election in 2000? They claim that the deal is "backloaded", so that the spending increases are concentrated in the next two years, while the taxcutting provisions are con-

If the economics of the baianced budget by 2002 may be questionable, the politics are not. As constructed, the deal allows Mr Clinton to banish the popular image of the Democrats as an irresponsible party of - but with Mr Clinton and Respending, while allowing the Re-

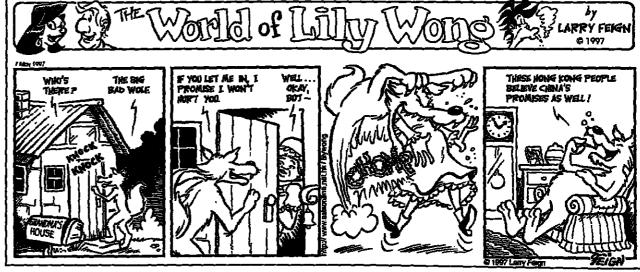
publicans to shed their image of

heartlessness As one right-wing commentator said ruefully, the "balanced budget" deal was one that neither party could have steered through Congress alone

publican leaders acting togeth-

er, it was almost certain to be passed - even though the details have vet to be hammered out.

In the conciliatory tone of one who recognises a political victory when he sees one, the White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, said of the deal: "We can't govern in an environment in which the Democrats, who are a minority in the Congress, can get everything they want."



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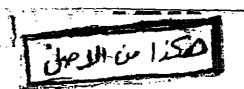
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Israel blamed for Lebanon booby-trap blast

Robert Fisk Beirut

The near-dormant ceasefire committee in southern Lebanon is to meet in emergency session this afternoon after two Lebanese construction workers were blown to pieces by a booby-trap bomb - al-legedly planted by the Israelis - in the town of Nabatea.

Lebanese police officials say that a second bomb, which was dismantled by ordnance officers, was made

markings. Both had been constructed of glass-fibre - identical to boo-

by-trap devices laid by Israeli soldiers at the village of Siddiqin last year. Israel, meanwhile, has prepared its own complaint to the ceasefire committee: the wounding of four civilians inside its occupation zone by a bomb set off by Hizbollah near the village of Olaia a on Monday. The bomb had been directed at a squad of pro-Isracli militiamen from the "South

of the SLA men were also wounded. rockets into Israel and, in turn, prompting Israel's bloody counter Although a low-level war has continued between Hizbollah and Israeli troops in southern Lebanon since last bombardment. Claims that Israel was behind yesterday's deaths would be easier to dismiss if the Israelis had April's Israeli bombing which killed almost 200 civilians, yesterday's blast not been caught planting glass-fibre bombs near Siddigin on April 18th, in Nabatca caused grave concern to both the Lebanese authorities and to 1996. Israeli troops later gave UN ofthe United Nations peacekeeping force. It was an identical glass-fibre bomb - concealed as a stone in a wall - which killed a teenage boy in

ficers maps of their hidden bombs, all of which were defused by the UN and all of which were made of glass-fibre. Hizbollah also accused Israel of responsibility yesterday, while its rival

ago, provoking a volley of Hizbollah Amal militia stated that the killings were a deliberate attempt to create unrest in advance of Pope John Paul

II's visit to Lebanon at the weekend. Lebanese newspapers have been speculating for several days that Israel might stage some form of attack to disrupt the Pope's trip, which the Lebanese government regards as the ultimate symbol that the country has emerged from its 16-year civil war. More than 20,000 Lebanese troops will be guarding the Pope during his travels across Beirut and during the

Mass which he plans to say on Sunday in the open space that marks the ruined pre-war centre of the capital.

The ceasefire committee has met only once - and then for only two minutes - since the Arab League decided to break off all negotiations with Israel earlier this year. Syria's cigar-smoking delegate will be sitting opposite the Israelis at the meeting at UN headquarters at Naqqoura this afternoon, along with Colonel Materials. her Tofaili, the Lebanese delegate who visited the scene of the

bombing in Nabatea yesterday. Under the terms of the truce, Is-

raelis and Hizbollah may attack each other but must not hurt civilians or fire from civilian areas of southern Lebanon.

Yesterday Israeli warplanes attacked suspected Hizbollah targets in the Syrian-controlled eastern Bekaa Valley. Two jets fired four rockets into a mountainous area southwest of the town of Mashghara, just north of Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone.

Lebanon Army" which was passing southern Lebanon just over a year Brazil's soaps wash away the mother tongue of Portugal

Brazilian soap operas have invaded Portugal's four televi-sion channels and now reign supreme over prime-time scheduling. Of last year's top-50 programmes, 48 were soaps from Brazil. Their influence has become so strong that the Portuguese are adopting Brazilian expressions and customs in an astonishing process of cul-tural colonialism in reverse.

Up to eight Brazilian soap operas or telenovelas are shown every day, back to back, with a respite only for the lunchtime and evening news. By channelhopping you can spend your entire waking hours watching them, and to judge from the ratings, many Portuguese do.

One hugely popular saga, O rei do gado (Cattle King) that has just finished - sending regretful sighs sweeping the nation - was seen by a record-breaking 74 per cent of television-watching Portuguese - outscoring even football, with which it frequently competed for the peak slots.

Based on Brazil's centurieslong conflict between landowners and peasants, its daily hour-long episodes tackled the issue of land reform. The climax coincided with a cross-country trek by real-life landless Brazilians who marched upon the capital Brasilia in pursuit of justice.

In Portugal, the language is becoming peppered with Brazilian soap slang, like cafune (caress), fofoca (intrigue, parti- glossiest and most expens

Elizabeth Nash watches the drama unfold as imported serials take over the life of a nation

cularly a political one), curtir (to have fun), or agua con azucar (to take things easy or describe something as honey-sweet). The expressions themselves give some idea of the soaps' content.

Todo bem (everything OK) is ousting the more usual como esta? as Portugal's way of saying hello, and the Brazilian Esta a dar and Ta! are now commonly used by Portuguese for "OK, good". Even more remarkable are the copied gestures: one landowner character had his wrists laden with gold bracelets, which he would shake when angry. Portuguese - even without bracelets

have copied the gesture. "Demographic studies show that Brazilian soaps are watched by all social and economic groups, including children, and by only slightly more women than men," says Manuel Fonseca, Deputy Programme Director of the private Portuguese channel, SIC, which has cornered the soap market through a preferential deal struck two years ago

with Brazil's Globo television. Globo, which owns 15 per cent of SIC, produces Brazil's

soaps, like Indomada (Indo-mitable) about a free-thinking woman who enjoys sex with her husband, that has replaced O rei do gado, Corpe e Alma (Body and Soul), and Anjo de Mim (My

Own Angel). The genre has a noble lineage. The first, Gabriela, based on the novel by Jorge Amado, conquered Portuguese living rooms in 1975 in the heady days following the "carnation revolution" against the generals. An instant hit, it starred the actress Sonia Braga who made an international name for herself portraying Amado heroines.

Amado's entire oeuvre, with its lush settings, sensuous fe-males, beautiful boys and scowling patriarchs, plus its profound social conscience, is quintessential soap material, to which Brazilian producers have contributed top-class actors, directors and camera operators.

There is a big difference between Brazilian soaps and those from, say, Mexico and Venezuela which are very bad," says Mr Fonseca. Globo invests much more money in sets, writers, costumes and actors. "They are comparable to the best American soaps, like Dallas," he says. "Not kitsch at all."

But one Portuguese man confessed that he made every effort to keep away from them, "because they're addictive, you stop going out and your life just



significant shorts

US army rapist jailed for 25 years

Delmar Simpson, the United States army staff sergeant convicted last week of raping six female recruits in his charge, was sentenced yesterday to 25 years in prison.

The sentence was agreed by a six-member court-martial jury after a day-long hearing in which Simpson apologised to his wife, his children, and the trainees "who believe I brought them harm", and in which his mother made an emotional plea for mercy. A psychologist testified that Simpson suffered from "a narcissistic personality disorder". Simpson insisted that all the women concerned had agreed to sex, and he is expected to appeal.

Tenet makes case to lead CIA

President Bill Clinton's choice to lead the CIA into the 21st century, George Tenet, vowed yesterday to close the door on the Cold War and draw more frequently on expertise in the United States private sector. "Ultimately, leadership at this moment means ... embracing the challenges and opportunities of the new era," he said in an opening statement to the Senate Intelligence Committee, which is considering his nomination.

Pre-dawn attack on Taliban

Anti-Taliban soldiers launched a pre-dawn offensive outside the deserted town of Jebul Siraj on the strategic Salang Highway that links Kabul to northern Afghanistan. Opposition troops made initial gains, according to the Taliban Islamic militia, but were later driven back into the

Algiers car bomb kills two

A car bomb killed two people and wounded about 20, many of them schoolchildren, in Algiers. The bomb was in a car parked opposite the Lycée Frantz Fanon at the entrance to the crowded suburb of Bab El-Oued.

Post delivered 87 years late

A card mailed 87 years ago from Copenhagen, finally showed up in its intended town of Agersted, 160 miles away. The card was mailed in August 1909 to eight-year-old Ida Ahlefeldt by an aunt. It then took an unexplained detour to Russia, where it languished, and recently made its way back to Denmark, and to Johan Wetche, the nephew of Ahlefeldt, who died in 1954.

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If last night's Cook Report sickened you, this is your chance to do something. Last night (TV's 'Cook Report' exposed the damning evidence supplied by IFAW, of the horrific

slaughter of wild animals in South Africa. Lions, leopards, even lionesses with cubs. All were on offer as targets for a rich man's 'kill'.

Bred in cages or illegally enticed from the Kruger National Park, dazed by drugs, they become an easy target. And there's no escape, because this hunt is a 'canned hunt' and takes place in a fenced-off private compound.

As one ex farm manager put it "....it's like shooting fish in a barrel".

A shot to the body is almost always recommended, as a shot to the head would spoil the look of the trophy when mounted on the wall. As the ex farm manager went on to say... "even when the lioness was skinned and the milk was

pouring out of her teats, it didn't bother them." But it bothers IFAW. And it bothered Roger Cook enough to expose this appaling trade in animal

If it bothers you, please send as much as you can to help IFAW buy more land where no animals will ever be killed.

I want to help IFAW save the African lions and fi	ght cn	 uelty	to c	ther	anin	als v	worl	d-v	vide			11	Own Re
Here is my donation of £			ma	ke c	hegu	es p	aya	ble	to	(FAW)	ОГ	debii	. my
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Send to IFAW, Section 18, Warren Court, Park Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2GA. practical consequences of much more important than, - nin the blame.

international

Secret of why the Mafia has never shot a soul

In a famous comedy sketch by the Italian film director Dino Risi, a mafioso is gunned down by a passing car on the church steps of his hill-top village in Sicily. The police come running out and ask the man who shot him. "Shot?" he answers in his dying breath. "I haven't been shot. I don't know what you're talking about!"

Sicily's reputation for refus-ing to talk about the Mafia has long since entered popular folklore. Everyone knows about omerta, the mythical code of silence that envelopes the island in a shroud of sinister mystery. and indeed anyone who walks unannounced into a Mafia-controlled village and starts asking direct questions is not likely to

In truth, though, the culture of silence has undergone a rad-ical change. Gone is the time when the post-war Archbishop of Palermo, Ernesto Ruffillo. could bluntly deny the existence of the Mafia and keep a straight face (in fact he was in cahoots with some of the biggest thugs in the outfit).

The dramatic Matia murders of the Eighties and early Nineties, and the equally dramatic mass arrests and maxitrials that followed, have made the business of denial rather more delicate.

Since the first mafioso to turn state's evidence, Tommaso Buscetta, started talking in 1984. Cosa Nostra has effectively ceased to be a secret organisaAndrew Gumbel concludes his

series with a look at the mythical code of silence

The new MAFIA

tion: omerta, at least as applied to Mafia members, is a dead concept. And the word "Mafia" itself has fully entered the public domain, after decades of euphemistic references to "the friends of the friends".

But that is where the linguistic clarity ends. For reasons of fear or of deeply ingrained self-censorship, Sicilians do not willingly stick their heads above the parapet and talk about the organised crime in their midst. These days they will acknowledge the Mafia's existence, but will often try to depict it as something that does not affect them.

Strategies intended to convey this non-complicity vary. One of the most common is simply: "Don't ask me, ask someone

The head of the local business association in Niscemi, Gio-

The mob: Al Capone's St Valentine's Day massacre, as depicted in the eponymous 1967 film (above); and (right) Tommaso Buscetta on his way to trial in Palermo in 1984 question about extortion and murder in his town with the words: "Sconosco il problema." What he no doubt meant by this was: "I am not familiar with the problem," but the beautifully ambiguous formulation also means "I refuse to recognise the

The snag with such a response is that it borders on outright denial, and denial is usually interpreted in the complex semantic code of the Sicilian Mafia as a veiled admission of complicity. The Mafia works best where it can work silently, refusing to talk is effectively contributing to the

Another familiar strain, and piece of pure syllogism encountered all over Italy, is: "What we have is not Cosa Nostra, therefore we do not have a vanni Millitari, responded to a Mafia problem." Cosa Nostra is it is not the Mafia. "It is just a

traditionally the most powerful Mafia group, concentrated in Palermo and western Sicily, and for years the two terms were synonymous.

But there are virulent Mafia cultures spreading through east-em Sicily, Calabria, Puglia, the Naples area and even the north of Italy. Strictly speaking, these other Mafias have their own names such as 'ndrangheta or Sacra Corona Unita, a technicality which intimidated or suspect citizens will willingly exploit to confound the over-

Or, sometimes, they might even say: "What we have is not as bad as the Mafia."

Yes, said the mayor of Niscemi, Salvatore Liardo, we have murders, drugs trafficking, a corrupt police force, extortion and armed robbery, but at least

problem with delinquency." This strategy is a variation on What we have is not Cosa Nostra' The fact that Niscemi is

6 Sicilians do not willingly stick their head above the parapet 9

plagued by a different Mafia phenomenon is enough to get

Mayor Liardo off the hook. Turning the issue upside down takes denial one stage further, turning bad to good: "The Mafia is actually better than

what we have," some say.

A very different strategy this. the product of a mentality that believes the Mafia to be an honourable organisation at root that has been besmirched by the recent descent into random violence and insalubrious business interests such as arms and drugs

trafficking. Thus one finds the likes of Frank Zeppia, a convicted member of Cosa Nostra in the United States now confined for two years to his home town of Caltanissetta, bemoaning the outbreak of gangsterism in the surrounding area. These guys ain't Mafia," he said. "they're pieces of shit."

And finally, the ultimate denial: "The Mafia is not Sicilian, it comes from Rome to oppress us."

Costanza, a student leader from Siracusa, explained. "The matioso purity to Giuliano, a true spirit of the Sicilian Matia bandit operating at the end of from Siracusa, explained, "The

is Salvatore Giuliano, who fought for our independence by stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. The people they call mafiosi today and put in jail are no more than tools of central government. If Giuliano were alive today, there'd be no lack of Sicilians prepared to

fight and die for him. This argument stems from the very origins of the modern Mafia as a warped resistance movement against Italian unification, and reflects bubbling resentment at the excessively centralised state structure, even in Sicily which has its own reinforced regional government.

While it is true that the Rome government has been severely compromised by the Matia in the past, it is absurd to ascribe any kind of Sicilian or

the Second World War with a glamorous reputation but who was used in turn by the independence movement, the Mafia and the Christian Democrat party to commit despicable acts before being betrayed by one of his own men.

Under l'

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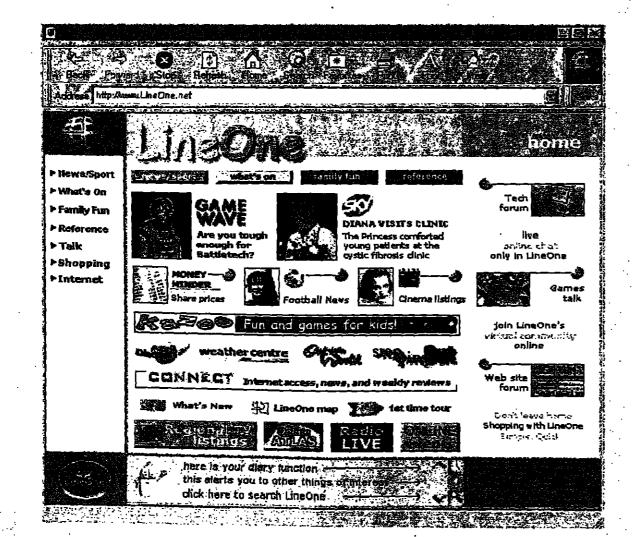
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The line does not hold for another, more profound reason. As the sociologist Diego Gambetta has argued, the Mafia does not have an ideology, a political programme or even a coherent set of rules of behaviour. It is essentially an economic phenomenon that controls territory through the sale of that doubleedged commodity, protection.

That explains the continuing reticence of Sicilians about Cosa Nostra. Protect the Mafia with your silence, and you in turn will be protected. Talk carelessly and there is no telling what might happen.



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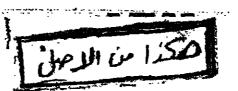
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the leader page

Something rather splendid at the Bank

elcome to the modern world - a place we have inhabited since last Friday morning. It is a place where you talk in a civilised fashion to your European neighbours, where a Secretary of State for the Environment can think aloud about road pricing, and where a Treasury minister can tackle monetary policy in the same way as foreign countries (such as Germany and the United States of America) where interest rates are consistently lower and price stability part of the natural order.

Yesterday Gordon Brown did his bit for modernism. By freeing day-to-day decisions by the Bank of England from Treasury supervision, he also pinned price stability on the Blair government's masthead in a way which, for all their talk, Lady Thatcher's and John Major's Chancellors never managed. New Labour starts to acquire its own historic identity as the low-inflation party. (And, a bonus for a pro-European, Gordon Brown moves the British institutional set-up a good step nearer to the single currency norm.)

What the new Chancellor has done is both dramatic and banal. Dramatic because, at a stroke, he exorcises the ghosts of Montague Norman, Philip Snowden, Lord Cromer and Denis Healey. Banal, because he has done for money no more than umpteen councils have been doing for refuse collection. A public service - the pursuit of stable

prices - has been contracted out. The Bank of England gets a target for infla-tion and is invited to use its big gum - setting the price of money - to secure it. (A really radical Chancellor would have gone further and pegged the Governor's salary to his success; a really, really radical Chancellor would have translated the Bank to a greenfield site in Docklands and flogged Threadneedle Street at a great profit, abolishing those chaps

in salmon pink kit on the way.)

What the Bank gets is freedom rather than independence. In the new model the Governor is an expert, expected to use professional discretion. There is a comparison to be made with the courts, although, unlike a judge, the Governor's decisions will affect the livelihoods of many people - their domestic finances, their job prospects. It is appropriate, therefore, that he accounts for the Bank's decisions.

Gordon Brown is also turning that is held publicly to account.

Trust politicians somewhat less. All the more reason to ensure that the Bank is held publicly to account.

Chancellor is to address the fundamental question of solvency. Is this Government committed to spending "he" into a collective, a Monetary Policy Committee, overlooked by a more representative Court. This reform ought usefully to allow non-City perspectives in.

That word "representative" is ambiguous. Why? Because part of the basic case for giving the Bank autonomy is that the markets trust the Bank more than elected politicians. Only bankers' decisions will command, Gordon Brown said, "the necessary confidence". By clear implication, markets



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mental question of solvency. Is this Government committed to spending

plans that cannot be supported by

likely revenues? Yes, the Chancellor

has room for manoeuvre on borrowing.

The more successful his new monetary

agent the Bank of England is, the

healthier look the national accounts.

Likewise, the longer the upswing of the

present economic cycle lasts, the more

buoyant the official revenues. A few

more hundreds of millions for the

National Health Service budget can be

lost and found with ease. But not bil-

lions - for social security, pensions,

Gordon Brown is now free to concentrate on welfare-to-work and the next Budget. That "concentrate" could be ominous if it means he is seeking to fine-tune the economy in 1970s style - that is to say, to fiddle with taxes to secure deflation of demand. There is as yet no satisfactory agreement on both the scale of such squeezing or even its necessity. Gordon Brown will do well to avoid being pressganged into unnecessary fiscal tacking.

Much more important for the new

family credit, universities, school-

teachers, school buildings. If he is to find extra money - significantly more - then he will have to raise taxes. But if the Government is true to its promise not to raise income tax rates, this means finding fiscal space among allowances, corporate taxation, indirect taxes, the taxation of wealth, council tax and so on. That there is such space is undeniable. But the political question has first to be asked: should the Government be raising taxes at all, given its pre-election promises? It is all very well to argue, as some have over the weekend, about the precise meaning of Labour's promises, but the real point is that voters will expect Messrs Brown and Blair to stick to the spirit of their tax pledge, not merely the letter. Nothing would be worse for New Labour's reputation than an attempt to smuggle in tax increases like a Colombian coke-dealer.

Yet Gordon Brown still has room. Take mortgage tax relief. No such allowance should be immune from examination of its effects. It is not needed to encourage house purchase; it does little or nothing to stop dispossession. Conceived as an element in housing policy, the case for its abolition or further restriction is strong. In other words, tax reform for the sake of the Government's social objectives strengthens the budgetary case enormously.

Gordon Brown spoke eloquently yesterday about the long term. His reform of the Bank is a useful first step towards a permanent framework for stable growth. His Budget ought to be another - provided he keeps the future shape of a prosperous and fair Britain at the front of his mind.

Knives (and forks) out for the Tories

s soon as the scale of their defeat Abecame clear, it was obvious that Tory right-wingers were going to need their Granita. The word "Granita" is just becoming established in politics. It is the name of the Islington restaurant where Tony Blair and Gordon Brown agreed, over various parmesan and rocket saladgarnished nosh that Tony was top and Gordon was not. This was painful for Brown, but enabled Blair to become Labour leader, then Prime Minister. The right-wingers need a Granita because, like Blair-Brown, they can't all be leader. They need to do a deal. But Michael Howard, enticing William Hague to his Belgravia flat for a champagne compact that quickly lost its fizz, has failed to learn from New Labour. You have to do these painful deals over dinner, not a couple of drinks - and on neutral territory. It takes at least an hour and a half of munching and eyeballing and straighttalking before such things are secure.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Under PR no one gets what they voted for

Sir: Your leading article of 6 May on proportional representation suggests that the present electoral system is self-evidently "the least perfect of all" and points out that if the parties' representation was proportional to the votes cast. Labour would have 285 MPs, the Tories 201 and the Liberals 165.

In other words, there would now be a Lib-Lab or possibly, and with the help of the minor parties, a Lib-Tory government. And who would have voted for the Lib-Labs? Those who voted Labour because they that he'll keep taxes down? Or those who voted Liberal Democrat because Paddy Ashdown promised

to put taxes up? What did the Lib-Lab manifesto look like? Did you see a copy? Did any voter? And did they also see a copy of the Lib-Tory manifesto or even the Lib-Tory-Green-Referendum-Martin Bell

manifesto? The worst thing you can say about the present system is that 44.4 per cent of the voters have the government they voted for and the government which can be held accountable to the promises it made during the campaign. The worst that can be said for a government elected by PR is that nobody voted for it and that there is no set of promises to which it can

First-past-the-post is, indeed, imperfect, but it is the least imperfect of all the options.
JOHN DIAMOND London W12

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Sir: I would like to tell Chas Loft ("Next time, can I have a vote that counts?"; Letters, 3 May) not to give up hope. As he has only voted four times he is obviously a relatively young man and so has more chance to get his wish than I ever had. After voting Liberal and Liberal

Democrat for 50 years, only once has my chosen candidate got into Parliament. I hoped to get a second one this time, but it wasn't to be. HAZEL READ Eastbourne, East Sussex

End of polling booth indolence

Sir: What should be compulsory in elections is not voting but attendance at the polling booth (Letters, 5 May). One may respect the deeply-held convictions of certain religious groups who take no part in secular government, but. it is quite a different matter with people who do not vote because they cannot be bothered. Those who tell canvassers, "You're all the same" or, "I don't know anything/ enough about it," or, "I'm not interested in politics" (ie I'm superior to you), are just avoiding the responsibility of members of society in a democratic country to choose their own government.

They would be free to put a blank paper into the box, but they ought not to be free to avoid their citizen's duty in a democratic society just because it is inconvenient to face up to their own indolence, ignorance or irresponsibility.
Councillor MARTIN KYRLE Eastleigh, Hampshire

Sir; John Burridge is wrong (letter, 5 May). Voting can be made 5 May). Voting can be made to give a postal address. Letters may compulsory without infringing the Department of History edited for length and clarity. We recret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters made their intrinsical consequences of much more important than. — oin the blame.



dissatisfaction by not voting.
This could be achieved by adding a simple "No Confidence" option to the ballot paper. Individuals could make a definite statement on the choices on offer without being forced to spoil their papers or stay STEVE RUDLAND London SW19

Chosen by race for the Cabinet

Sir: I note with some interest your correspondent Polly Toynbee's opinion (5 May) that all political appointments to the Cabinet should be made not on the grounds of ability but on the basis of the minister's country of origin: "Less attractive is the presence of so many Scots. They occupy a third of the Cabinet yet only 8 per cent of the population live in Scotland."

The 8 per cent she refers to should only entitle the Scots to one whole Cabinet minister and a bit of one other. Perhaps Ms Toynbee will enlighten us as to which ministers. should be driven out of office on the grounds of their race. RICHARD PATERSON Bristol

Sir: Stephen Goodwin (report, 3 May) notes the "bizacre" situation facing the Conservative Party of having an MP who represents an English constituency acting as shadow Scottish Secretary. Strange - the same thing has been going on for years in Northern Ireland and no one seems to have taken a blind bit of notice.

GABRIEL DOHERTY

Keep a copy of Elgin Marbles

Sir: Would it not be possible for a copy of the Elgin Marbles to be made, to be displayed in this country, while the originals were returned to Greece? Holography and modern computer analysis should make it no more difficult than the copying of the Grinling Gibbons carvings at Hampton

Court.

Making such a copy would still be a major, and very expensive, undertaking and the celebration of its achievement would to some extent compensate for the sacrifice we would have made in giving up the originals. Returning the carvings would be an act of generosity which would be appreciated all over Europe. It would be more appropriate to an outward-looking government than the rather mean-minded response of the just-appointed Heritage Secretary to the Greek appeal. PLICHTMAN Surbiton, Surrey

Anzac Day games

Sir: Your article "Anzacs declare war on the Dirty Digger" (25 April) contains inaccuracies about News Corporation and our associated companies, Super League and Fox Studios Anstralia.

Your correspondent describes the Anzac Day Super League Test as an "Anzac Test". Neither the Returned Services League nor

Super League attempted to glorify footballers by comparing them to soldiers. The match took place in the evening, well after the

Cenotaph memorial services. For some 30 years Anzac Day has been less a day of solemnity than one of commemoration. Football matches of all codes, race meetings and other games now feature prominently.

Your correspondent also misrepresents the action before the Supreme Court of New South Wales. This issue is between the Save the Showground for Sydney group and the NSW government. Neither Fox Studios Australia nor News Corporation is a party. The Royal Show decided in 1988

that it would leave the site at Moore Park. The NSW government's agreement to proceed with negotiations with Fox to develop studio facilities on the site began six years later. Far from destroying the heritage of the site, the Fox Studios complex will preserve most of the existing structures. GERALDINE PATON Director, Corporate Affairs News Limited, Surry Hills, New South Wales, Australia

Boateng's Britain

Sir: Special congratulations are due to Paul Boateng MP on his appointment as Britain's first black minister – another welcome sign that Tony Blair will govern for all Britain's people. NICK BENT Hale, Cheshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

formula milk

Sir: Laudable as their aims undoubtedly are, the current divisions in the ranks of the National Childbirth Trust over sponsorship by Sainsbury's highlight the dangers of a ruthlessly purist approach to what is

ssentially a practical issue. My partner and I had our first baby 10 months ago, fully intending that she should breast-feed. In the first two weeks, however, things did not go according to plan, and it took the combined efforts of a breastfeeding counsellor and formula milk from Sainsbury's to see our baby safely through those early days and on to nine months of happy breast-feeding. Now my partner has returned to full-time work, formula milk again provides the only

practical way to feed our son. The Trust should not castigate supermarkets for stocking an essential item for millions of families. Its aim should be to achieve a society in which breastfeeding is a normal, everyday activity, and not one in which women and their babies have to secrete themselves in public toilet cubicles to avoid disapproving looks. In the meantime, ironically, supermarkets (and I do not single out Sainsbury's) provide some of the most comfortable facilities for families to breast-feed outside the home.

STEVE HICKMAN Wokingham, Berkshire

|Purist anger over | Don't ask us to mourn for Tories

Sir: I am compelled to reply to Tristan Garel-Jones's plea for sympathy towards the routed Tories ("That's politics, but it hurts", 5 May) to explain why I find

it impossible to oblige.

When my husband and I lost our business and were forced to make 25 people redundant five years ago, at the height of the Tory-led recession - funny, I don't remember Mr Garel-Jones or his friends sparing us any thoughts. We, too, had given our all to our business and our employees and then had everything we had worked for snatched away from us overnight.

Did Ken Clarke feel a pang of anything when we had to pack our belongings into a van and leave our much-loved home? I think not.

When we found ourselves, as grandparents, having reared a family responsibly and without ever being a burden to the country, suffering the ignominy of signing on and claiming Income Support, how much sympathy do you think we received from the then Government? Not a lot.

As Mr Garel-Jones says, "middle-aged, past their best, accustomed to a demanding but zany way of life" - yes we can identify with that. And, yes, it hurts like hell. We, too, had a mortgage, a son still at school and a large debt to the bank.

So, I am sure you will understand when I say I feel that justice is now being seen to be done. Mrs LINDA M COCKSHAW

Socratic road to political wisdom

Sir: Further to the suggestion that philosophy should be taught in schools, and to Nicolas Walter's response (letter, 5 May) that such education would reduce participation in the democratic process, a distinction needs to be drawn between possible approaches to the teaching of philosophy.

It is true that presenting to students the self-defeating scepticism of much modern philosophy would lead to the cynicism which is increasingly apparent in voting statistics. But if teachers were to return to the ancient philosophers, the effect oma de tue revetse; ioi tue j philosophers of antiquity such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus and Porphyry thought that their task was to address the perennial problems which beset human beings in their attempt to live the just life and to obtain

happiness.
In Plato's Republic it is pointed out that the attractions of the life of the mind would discourage true philosophers from participating in political affairs. But Socrates has shown that a fine will be levied upon all those who have approached wisdom and will not enter politics - the fine of being ruled by ignorant men - and that will ensure that philosophers will indeed fulfil their political duty

for their country.

The greatest good we could offer our school children is the confidence and encouragement to pursue wisdom.
TIM ADDEY Frome, Somerset

Old speech of New England

Sir: Serena Mackesy writes: "If we ever went to war with the States, all we'd have to do to spot their spies would be to get everyone to read out the word 'Leominster'" (In my week, 3 May). Well, she would then misclassify the very people whose forebears started the process of opting out of the then British Empire: the citizens of Massachusetts and other New England states.

There is a town by the name of Leominster (Leh-minster) and a Worcester (Wooster) in the state, and New Englanders laugh about the "hicks" from further west who don't know how to pronounce them.

Hungary

Manager sacked

Sir: Today's leading article (6 May) suggests that John Major spent "too much time governing and not enough campaigning".

It would be nearer the mark to say that he spent too much time managing and not enough governing. And while this may have produced an economy in reasonable shape it did not produce the sense of purpose and leadership which characterise good democratic government and to which electorates respond. This directly contributed to the scale of the Conservative Party's defeat - a fact which Conservative MPs will doubtless bear in mind when selecting a successor to ANTREW GURRIE

A soap-box in cyberspace

Britain has a long tradition of open-air speaking, often in the face of police harassment. Now, in the age of the sound-bite, the voice of democratic debate is muted by TV. But the spirit of the outdoor rhetorician survives on the superhighway, says Heathcote Williams

> n these media-saturated times. it is hard to cast an overloaded mind back to the genteel bleak-ness of England in the Fifties and early Sixties. There was but one television channel - a hazy. flickering black-and-white parish pump, devoutly unifying an increasingly sedentary country with trans-missions of Come Duncing. The finer points of human relationships were left to a flatulent soap-opera, Crossroads, set in a Birmingham motel; and Panorama would occasionally address a controversial theme with an anaesthetic pomposity.

The electronic curfew had begun. As the battery-chicken dwelling-units the tower blocks - penetrated the heavens that no one was inclined to believe in any more, so the old communities on the ground disappeared, and the spectral pseudo-communities of the airwaves arose in their place, as if to compensate for their loss.

In Hyde Park, however, there was an alternative station; destined never to be tied to the subtle blackmail of advertisers, and free from the enervating royalty-mongering of the BBC. On Saturday evening, all day Sunday, and Sunday night, you could surf 20 or 30 flesh-andblood transmissions for as long as your legs would stand it. and for as long as the cardboard-flavoured tea from the pagoda-shaped tea stand would keep warming your bones.

erating tribunes of what was shortly to become the "underground", the alternative society. The messages from this alternative parliament were avidly downloaded by incipient subversives. There simply wasn't anywhere else, or anything else like it.

The hand-cranked broadcasts took place on a windswept piece of tarmac at the end of the plutocratic purlieus of Park Lane. The programme planners were no more than the muses of human inspiration - encouraging the raw articulacy of anyone who felt like standing on a battered tea-chest, an overturned bucket, or, occasionally, a customised stand to air their views and to let them

run the gauntlet in a grass-roots ratings war between rival speakers.

The speakers had to be resilient, and physically fit. They could be attacked, sometimes burled from the platform; they were half drowned out by traffic noise; and at each deep oratorical inhalation they took in volumes of lead-polluted fumes.

They were constrained by the Hyde Park bye-laws from collecting money in the park, so that those who depended upon speaking for a livelihood were starved out; and they all had to suffer the officious scrutiny of the police in case their speeches contained seditious or blasphemous material. Even the most mildly disrespectful reference to a member of the Royal Family could result in immediate arrest and confinement in the special police station that served Speakers' Corner.

The Royals were still an untouchable totem in a deeply class-ridden society. Hyde Park was officially a "royal park". and it most particularly offended the powers that he to have the Royals insulted there. This was the archaic reason invariably given by Marylebone magistrates as to why collections could not be taken in Hyde Park. The offence of an itinerant wordsmith, who was vulgar enough to ask for a donation at the end of a meeting, was construed as a form of lese-majeste. Had he not subversively sung for his doubtless subversive supper not a stone's throw from the lienating splendour of Buckingham Palace, whose cosseted inhabitants would be dining in comfort, secure in the knowledge that the Royal Parks police were arresting anyone unwise enough to beg on the Royals' patch.

All these strictures, as Stephen Coleman points out in his engrossing new book. Stilled Tongues, were echoes of ancient and much more extreme injunctions against free speech in a mandarin society - a society that thought freedom of speech might happily be permitted to adom the port-stained lips of gen-tlemen in their clubs, but should be watered down for the man in the street, in case it proved a more pro-active

In December 1656, the House of Commons debated for several days whether or not to bore a hole through the tongue of the pacifist Quaker James Naylor. They decided to do so and then had it done. It was disclosed that Naylor's voluble tongue had been unrestrained enough to preach that "God was against the coverous cruel oppressors who grind the faces of the poor and needy", and it had been seditious enough to proclaim that God, the celestial democrat, had "made all men of one mould and one blood to dwell on the face of the earth".

At present, when freedom of speech has become a commodity in the gift of media monopolies, it is forgotten how great the contribution of open-air speaking has been to extending the 'limits of the expressible", in Chomsky's

The outdoor rhetorician may nowadays be seen as risibly anachronistic: the idea of carting a hefty and unmanage able speaker's platform - replete with steps and display panel - on and off a bus, on and off the Tube. ill contrasts with the cosiness of a hospitality suite in a studio, where the interviewee may field-test his latest sound-bite with a pampering make-up artist, unlikely to heckle, and whose powder and makeup brushes are less threatening than the night-sticks of the police prowling the park on the look-out for the triggerwords of sedition.

't is of course much neater and much tidier to have people who may wish Lto give vent to anything disturbing boxed up in a cube, like Damien Hirst's sheep. Disembodied, tucked away inside what is, after all, only a piece of inanimate furniture that people have got into the habit of staring at, or even worshipping as if it were a techno-Shinto shrine. But there is no interaction. You cannot heckle a goldfish bowl.

William Morris regarded the outdoor meeting as being of paramount value in communicating opinion, and deeply resented the bourgeois fetish of tidiness, so obstreperously enforced by the police. He commented on their "arrogant petty tyranny" and decried the fact that, They would clear the streets of costermongers, organs, processions and lecturers of all kinds, and make them a sort of decent prison corridors, with people just trudging to and from their work."

Now, thanks to a demonic consumerism, the street as meeting place. the street as open university, the street as festival, are all brushed aside once more in deference to the monocultural street reduced to an extended assemblyline for conspicuous consumption. The street is tyrannised and conquered by the automobile, whose pollution of the body politic is much more lethal than the exhortations of even the most mis-

The traffic of the mind that took place on numberless street corners has been supplanted, squeezed out of existence by the upholstered traffic of impervious people in cocooned and carcinogenic pods, who watch Friends and Neighbours but do not know who lives

"Reclaim the streets", of course, valiantly embraces this tradition in defiance of the "arrogant petty tyranny" as embodied in the Criminal Justice Act, and the neutering of public gatherings. None the less, it requires a considerable leap of the imagination to visualise London as it was between the wars, in the days of the great anarchist speaker, Bonar Thompson, Sean O'Casey's protégé.

These were the venues available for an itinerant speaker, such as Bonar Thompson: Highbury Corner, Finsbury Park, Brockwell Park, Victoria Park, Peckham Rye, Clapham Common, Parliament Hill Fields, Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead: the World's End, Chelsea: Jolly Butcher's Hill, Wood Green: Beresford Square, Woolwich; Golden Square, Soho; Catherine Street, Croydon; and Howland Street, off Tottenham Court Road, in addition to Tower Hill and Marble Arch. There were legions more throughout the country: the Bull Ring in Birmingham, Glasgow Green, Bigg Market in Newcastle.

name but a few. Michael Foot declared himself an "addict" of Bonar Thompson, and "in the midst of the strident ideological confusions which abounded in the 1930s," he came to believe that "Bonar Thompest thing in the land".

Thompson's pacifist war cry was: "Half the misery in the world is caused by ignorance. The other half is caused by knowledge." He was a fierce opponent of militarism and would say, with provocative relish, immediately after the First World War: "When a monarch. or president, a premier or other national leader announces that he will fight to the death, he is generally in dead earnest. He is referring, of course, not

onald Soper, still speaking at the age of 94, took up the pacifist cudgels in the Second World War, courageously enduring the bearbaiting of uniformed soldiers on leave. On one occasion, in mid-sentence, the Bible was blown out of his hand by the blast from an incendiary bomb.)

to his own death, but yours."

Coleman conveys a sense that these men and women, rather than just blowing in the wind, were fine-tuning the cogs and balances of social cohesion ~ and in the majority of cases they were doing it for free (unlike the grasping TV gurus and guru-ettes of push-button lala-land). His freelance orators revitalised the Zeitgeist with their insights - they were often martyred for so doing - and because what they were saying was spontaneous and impassioned, it remained in the mind for far, far longer, giving the audience the feeling that they were present at a unique and unre-

peatable event. They couldn't catch it again on video. Hyde Park was, and is, man speaking in tongues, speaking in the wilderness; the Sermon on the Mount, the trickster,

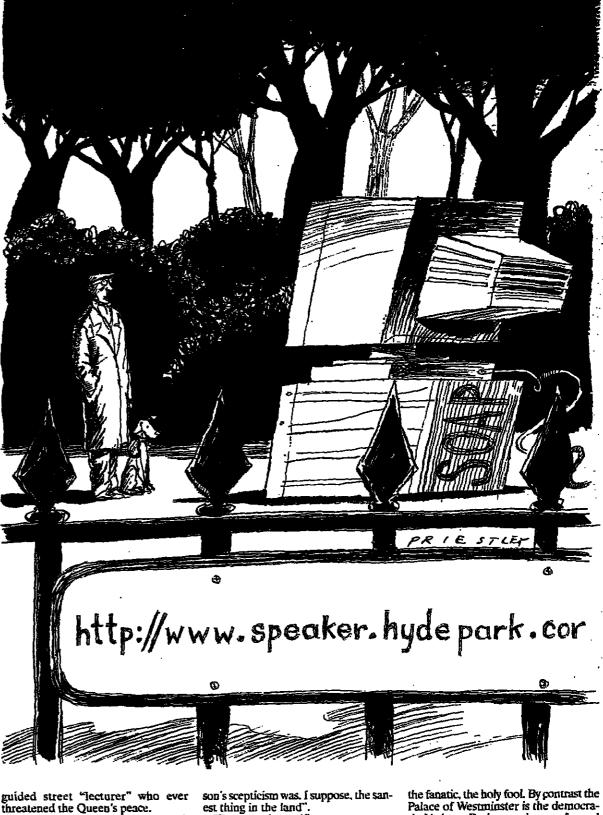
tic Vatican. Both strands are of equal importance but there have been 18 vears of viral attack on the communities. All hands are required on deck.

Dr Stephen Coleman is the director of the Hansard Scholars programme at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Not uninfluenced by his own background as a long-term observer of Hyde Park in action, he is now instrumental, with others, in bringing farmchair mayericks and eccentric ideologues", and anyone else who cares to participate, out into the open through 'UK Citizens On-Line Democracy (http://www.democracy.org.uk), which is, in effect, a virtual People's Parliament, where the rough and tumble of the hustings can be incarnated in cyberspace, and where those old, urgent voices long stilled by vehicle traffic, may be heard once more on the information superhighway - a virtual parliament, which could, if accessible enough, turn into an ongoing deliberative democracy broadening "public space" to nigh-on

infinite proportions. Elitists and dyed-in-the-wool Lud-dites alike will be aghast; but, if noth-ing else, the great Web differs from Cobbett's great Wen in that it remains mercifully, anarchically, and perhaps even utopianly unresponsive to the devilish talons of the media moguls who have all been obliged to retreat from cyberspace, their greedy claws olunted by frustration.

 $m_{m,q},\dots$

'Stilled Tongues: from soapbox to soundbue' by Stephen Coleman (Porcupine Press, £8.95).



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Tuesday, I have woken up early, for some inexplicable reason. But I never wake up early. So why have I woken up early on 6 May at 5am? No matter. To get myself back to

sleep, I try to think of something to worry about, and for some reason I think of my son's project at school. This term his class is doing rivers" as their project. They are learning all they can about rivers, and how these vast bodies of water hegin life as small springs in the mountains and end up as major sources of the salaries of directors of water

companies .. As we live beside a River Avon, I feel my nine-yearold may already know something about rivers, so asked him the other day what he knew about the

River Avon. He said he knew that Avon was the Welsh word for river, and that River Avon just means "River River", which was pretty impressive, until I realised that he got this from me and that it is the only thing he knows about the River

from the River Avon. and the extraordinary thing about the pumping station is that it uses only the force of the river to drive the pump. No other motive power - no engine, no fuel - was ever envisaged, apart from the huge water mill-wheel which to this day can be driven by the weight of water to fill

the canal. It is a wonderful sight. Even my son was quite impressed by the size of the wheel, though rather more impressed by the range of

souvenirs and sweets on sale. It is at this point that a cockerel crows very close by. This explains why I have woken up, and started worrying about rivers. I have been woken by the cockerel.

But this is strange in itself, as there is no cockerel living within a mile of our home, so I go to the window to look out and to my amazement there is a jug of milk on the window sill covered in snow. In a flash I wake up. I am

not at home at all. I am



Miles Kington

staying at the West Arms at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog in North Wales, where we have gone on Bank Holiday Monday to visit my stepmother. There is a jug of milk on the window sill because my wife likes to keep some fresh milk cool for the morning cup of tea and had put it out the night before. The milk is covered with snow

because it is snowing hard. We have also come here ~ clever, this - to visit the nearby Pistyll Rhaiadr, which is the tallest waterfall in Britain.

Why is this clever? Because my son is doing a project on rivers.

Meanwhile, it is snowing thickly. On 6 May 1997, at 6am. When my son wakes up and sees it. he gets dressed quickly and drags me outside to have a snow fight, as if he has never seen snow before in his life. Well, he has seen snow before, on odd occasions, but there are plenty of others about that have never seen snow before. There are lambs in the field up the road who are saying to their mothers, "What is this horrible-tasting white stuff?" There is a pair of pheasants in the field looking pretty puzzled. And there is, even more oddly, a swallow sitting on the

telephone line outside the West Arms, clearly saying to himself: "I left Egypt for THIS?" It is 6 May, on a bright

morning in North Wales, five months after Christmas, days after the fall of the Tory government, and I am up to my knees in snow in a field rolling a huge snowball with my son. What has gone wrong?

My son clearly thinks that nothing has gone wrong, because he forms a large snowball like a baker taking a lump of dough and aims it

somewhere in my direction and flukily hits the area between my chin and my

"Now, that is very interesting, Adam," I tell him. "You see, it explains how rivers form. That snowball will melt in the warmth of my body, and it will flow down my clothes joining with other melted snowballs until it forms a small stream which will flow out on the ground and finally make its way down to the sea, and do you know what that means?

"No," says my son. "What does it mean?" "It means you are doomed

to death by snowball!" I cry. advancing on him with as many snowballs as I can hold, watched by a slightly puzzled group of sheep and

Later we find that the track to Pistyll Rhaiadr is probably too slushy to risk. so we never do get to see the highest waterfall in Britain and go and see my stepmother instead and we learn nothing about rivers from her, but I would like to putit on record that on 6 May 1997 I had to scrape snow off a jug of milk to get a cup

the interests, as he emphasised yesterday, of the long-term bat-tle against inflation. In the short term, it's probable that, given

the Bank's instinctive tendency

towards monetary prudence,

there is at the very least another rates increase in the pipeline. That will not unduly worry Gor-don Brown because he has

never once flinched from his

view that Labour has to reverse

its fatal habit of courting short-

term popularity and then paying

for it later, as it did when the

IMF were called in in 1976. This

may yet have implications for fiscal policy, and for the

Chancellor's first budget, as for monetary policy.

There was a fascinating

exchange on April 29 between

Brown and Blair, reported in the

writer Robert Harris's inside

account of the election cam-

paign. It describes how press questions would be fielded on

the planned July budget. Blair tells Brown: "You should say

that the only reason you're hold-

ing the budget is to introduce welfare to work." Brown,

reports Harris, is anxious not to

commit himself. "Blair is politely

insistent. Brown concedes." This

is only pre-election talk, of

course, but it could just be that

Brown, who yesterday recom-

mitted himself unequivocally

next month to reducing VAT on

Seize the moment or rue the day, Prime Minister

romwell said "You must not only strike while the iron is hot. You must also make the iron hot by striking." The landshide that occurred last Thursday has changed, more than any of us dared to imagine, the whole landscape of our politics. Britain seems a different place now. The air of expecta-

tion of change is almost tangible. The temptation for opposi-tion parties, as Parliament returns today, is to leave change to the Government and wait for the dust to settle. But this would be to risk losing the moment and

The Conservatives will be distracted and disabled by their internal squabbles for some time to come. But the rest of us do not have to wait for them. In our most successful elec-

tion campaign since the 1920s, the Liberal Democrats have played a key role not only in sweeping out a discredited government, but also in creating a climate for change. We must now be prepared to play our part in that change.

Our successes have given us a clear mandate to fight for investment in education and in our health service, for a new environmental agenda, democratic renewal and for a more rational, less confrontational and more honest approach to politics. These will be our priorities in the new Parliament.

Mr Blair now has the overwhelming good will of the nation behind him. And that will, too, is for change – funda-mental change to the way we do things in our politics and in our society. This could be - should be - a government to match

those of 1906 and 1945; one which opens the way to a great decade of reform (it cannot be done in less) to modernise the way Britain works: from our system of government, to our relations with our neighbours, to the way we organise our society and welfare system. And if that is what Mr Blair intends to make it, then the Liberal Democrats will provide critical but firm support for every step he takes in that

We could start immediately by moving to a ess adversariai and more coi rational basis for our politics in the House of Commons. If Mr Blair intends to change the way the Government behaves, then, again, we will respond by seeking to change the way the Opposition behaves, too.

This will not only improve our politics as they are. It will also prepare the way for our

politics as I hope they will become.

It is not to diminish Mr Blair's achievement to note that, for all Labour's huge majority, he still enjoys the support of only 44 per cent of voting Britain. A system that can produce a landslide to sweep a government in on a minority of the vote can sweep it out on a minority of the vote, too. We will need more stable formdations than this to sustain the full decade of reform necessary to complete the modernisa-

tion of Britain. The single most crucial decision that Labour and the Liberal Democrats have agreed to implement in this Parliament is a referendum on proportional representation. If this is won and implemented before the next election, the firm foundations will be laid for a historic period of change which begins with Parliament's return today. If not, this could just as easily be merely another bright dawn, as illu-

and die like the

sory as all those we have seen before. It will be much easier to win the case for PR in that referendum if the co-operative politics



that PR will entreach is already

seen to be working and produc-

begin without delay the work

agreed by Robert Maclennan and Robin Cook before the elec-

tion on constitutional change; in particular, the early establish-ment of the Commission on

If, as I believe, this can quickly

reach a conclusion on an alter-

native proportional system broadly supported by both par-

ties - but especially by Mr Blair himself - then the relationship

between the Liberal Democ-

rats and Labour will be the

most important relationship in

British politics for the next 10 or

15 years. The foundations upon

which a programme for the full modernisation of Britain can safely be built will have been

laid. And the Conservatives will

have all the time in the world to

try to struggle back to decent

one-nation Conservatism, in

mitment, courage or compe-

tence, the two parties fail in this

project, then this will be just

another new government, with

another new programme. We

will become just another Oppo-

sition, opposing them. And the Conservatives, armed with a

right-wing agenda and under a right-wing leader, will probably

- sooner rather than later -

sweep back by the very system

that has just swept them away.

moment, it may not come again

If, between us, we lose this

So Liberal Democrats stand

ready to play our part in secur-

If, for lack of personal com-

Electoral Reform.

by Paddy Ashdown

This could be a government to modernise

the way Britain works and if that is so, the Liberal

Democrats will provide critical but firm support

ing real change in this Parliament. We will strenuously oppose those things the Government does that we think are wrong. We will be a scourge for extra investment in education and for facing up to the crisis in the National Health Service. We will support Scottish devolution, as we have always done, but oppose Labour's damaging

decision to have a second question on tax-rais-

for a generation.

ing powers in their referendum.

We will be implacable in protecting individual liberties against any repeat of Labour's cavalier disregard for these, in the face of the Howard Bills before the election. We will ce tainly expect early action to see a Bill of Rights incorporated into British law. We will press for a long-term approach and oppose short-term gimmicks, of which we saw too many during the election. We will not let Labour ignore the environment, as they did in their election campaign, and we will not hesitate to push them to get off the fence on Europe and provide

them with support against their own Euroscep-

tics when they do. There will be other areas where we can support them, too. For instance, we have long believed in strengthening the independence of the Bank of England in order to entrench low inflation, and we will support the Government in this now that Gordon Brown has announced his indication to implement this policy. We will upport initiatives to raise education standards, while insisting that these are backed by

And in some areas we should be prepared to break with convention and tradition if these stand in the way of more sensible cooperation. Constitutional reform is one clear case for such an approach. Welfare reform, Northern Ireland, and perhaps even Europe could be others.

Last Thursday's vote delivered a mandate for real change in Britain. We must keep the

Flash Gordon gets off to a flying start

by Donald Macintyre

ordon Brown, like his leader, was never much interested in opposition. Since 1994, this restless. driven man has brooded about only two things - how to win the election and what do with vic-tory once in the Treasury. It isn't surprising, therefore, that he was ready to be Chancellor. Even given the natural tendency of officials to say flattering things about their new masters, the most senior ones at the Treasury seem genuinely struck by how instantaneously he settled into the job. All around Whitehall, little

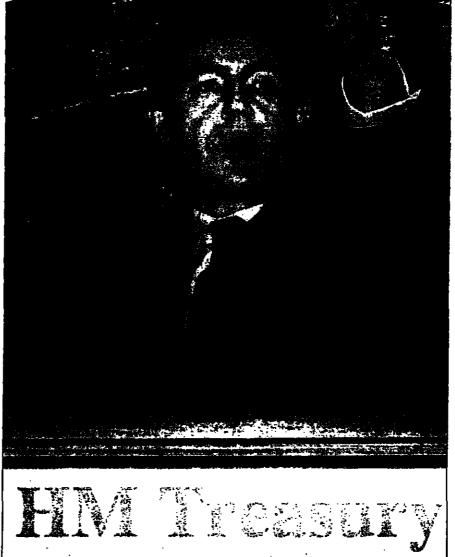
tremors indicate the culture shock that comes with the dawn of a new era - incoming, campaign-hardened Labour fixers horrified at how few civil servants carry what they regard as the obligatory pagers and mobile telephones, newlyappointed ministers unsure of where even their departments are, let alone their new offices, the hilarious day-long quest by officials that nearly ended in appointing the obscure left-wing Scottish backbencher Brian Donohoe instead of Lord (Bernard) Donoghue as Agriculture Minister of State.

At the Treasury, therefore, it was striking how smooth - rel-atively - the transition was. No. here the shock was quite different. What no one had expected before polling day was that Brown would make such a difference so early.

A few days and an era ago, the most fashionable, worldweary complaint was that you wouldn't notice a Labour government, that it would be the same old policies without the same old faces. Brown, visibly relaxed after the dreadful tensions of a six-week election campaign, yesterday exploded that myth. We may not yet know much about the Blair government, but we can never say again say that it isn't going to do anything new.

Normally, when a politician s of an institution, as the ne Chancellor said yesterday of the Bank of England, that he is going to subject it "to the most radical internal reform since it was founded in 1694", it has the unconvincing ring of politician's hyperbole. Yesterday, it didn't. would have been scarcely excessive if he had also claimed to have transformed, within five days of becoming Chancellor, more than 300 years of political economy. By taking a giant leap towards full independence of the Bank of England, Brown has abandoned, probably forever, the historic right of politicians to indulge in short-term manipulation of monetary policy.

It became almost boring in the long run-up to the general election to hear Brown satirising the "Ken and Eddie" show, and holding out the distantseeming prospect of a restruc-tured, quasi-independent Bank. Watching him announce that vesterday's quarter-point interdecided by the Chancellor of cellor and Prime Minister at



In one sweep Chancellor Gordon Brown has transformed 300 years of political economy and manipulation of the Bank of England

the Exchequer, and that from next month rates would be fixed by the Bank alone, was, by contrast, electrifying.

The steps leading to the announcement were appropriately dramatic; the meeting with the Governor was brought for-ward by a day because the legislation on the Bank had to be agreed at yesterday's Cabinet Committee deciding the con-tents of the Queen's Speech setting out the Labour programme. Such a market-sensitive decision could not be left dangerously unannounced for a day in case it leaked - though the signs are that the new Government may be rather good at keeping secrets. The move, perhaps the most far-reaching change to the economic policy-making process for half a century, was put to Treasury officials on Friday, est rate rise was the last to be finally agreed between Chan-

Blair's Islington home on Sunday, agreed with the Governor on Monday, and was never

The Chancellor's announcement that he needed a quarter per cent rise to correct inflationary drift was forgivably a mite more dramatic than it needed to be. It's a safe bet that his Tory predecessor, Ken Clarke, would have done the same if not this month, then certainly the next. Nor did Brown choose yesterday explicitly to criticise Clarke for resisting, over many months, the advice of the Governor to

It is probable, of course, that a Conservative Chancellor would always have been given more freedom by the markets to second-guess the Bank than a Labour one. But even with Clarke, there is an irony. On the fuel to five per cent - also wants a balanced package including, say, the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief or some other form of revenue raising, and that Blair has yet to be persuaded that it would be wise. In yesterday's Independent, the economist Gavyn Davies, who could well fill a new deputy governor post at the Bank, sounded caution against the long-term electoral damage that such tax rises could yet inflict. But there are those who believe that Brown is not as sure as Davies

that such rises should be avoided. But that's for the future. Yesterday's stroke could not have been bolder. Blair and Brown have several ways of reassuring those who believe that every economic objective will now be sacrificed to the attack on inflation. First, the remit to the Bank includes the 1944 Beveridge objective of stable growth and full employment. Second, four of the members of its monetary policy committee will be Government appointees. Third, the Bank will have to answer to the House of Commons for its decisions. At a stroke, Labour has laid a historic claim to the high ground of economic virtue. That, in its own way, is as stunning a turn round as the election

informative:

utation as Chancellor in part on

his ability to second-guess the

Governor's caution and get

away with it; on the other, he

more than any of his ex-Cabinet

colleagues had been prepared,

in the long term, to sacrifice his

rights to do that by surrender-

ing them to the European Cen-

tral Bank that will be responsi-

ble for fixing rates under a

has now handed on that right, in

But it has been Brown who

single currency.

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How will Labour deal with real life?

Forget the landslide - Mr Blair's team must cope with the global changes that will affect us all

hen this election of yours is over," a Norwegian university professor has just written to me, "I hope your paper will broaden its mind a bit again ... okay, of course politics matters, but it sure matters less than your current coverage indicates. Write more about gene technology, the Internet and other processes that will change the way we live. Tony Blair won't. All right: he will,

It is always good to see ourselves as others see us, but I am particularly grateful to the Norwegian professor for pointing out the limits of politics at this particular time. There is such an expectation of change, and such a element of (albeit understandable) glee among Labour supporters that we need people to remind us that the election of Tony Blair will only change

our lives a little. How much depends on the extent to which he, and the people round about him, understand these big forces for change, and then whether they shape their policies to channel and use them, or resist and challenge them. Do you lean with the wind, or do you spit into it? Try this test. Let's list five of these forces, the five of these follows, and see to what ing ahead. Nevertheless, it is a phy, the ageing of the devel-



Hamish McRae

extent New Labour's ideas do dovetail with them.

Start with the rising power of global finance. That power has been climbing for the best part of two decades, so New Labour has had plenty of time to come to terms with it, but Gordon Brown managed to take the markets by surprise yesterday by pushing ahead more quickly than they had expected with the plan to give the Bank of England freedom to set interest rates. This is simply taking further a series of reforms started by the previous Government: and merely brings the Bank to about the middle of the independence league rather than being a bit below it. So we are

Score: Plus.

Next, take the changes taking place in the world labour market: greater competition from workers abroad, the shift towards self-employment, parttime working, job growth in smaller companies and so on. Here, the new policy is the application of the European social chapter. The changes in the labour market have undoubtedly created great social tensions, in particular the conflict between the insiders - people who have good jobs and want to keep them, and the outsiders - people who are unemployed, or underemployed

and would like to do better. The problem here is that the Government is adopting an old-fashioned social model, one invented the best part of a decade ago in a quite different economic environment, and one which has subsequently been discredited as increasing the gap between insiders and outsiders. The practical reality may be that the new Government had no option but to sign up, and it may well be that it will start to develop a more appropriate model in the com-

ing years. But so far, the score is for a minus.

economies and our social attitudes. On economics, there is the obvious practical need to establish adequate pension provision as well as bringing about other changes such as making it easier for older people to do part-time work. Here, the appointment of Frank Field, perhaps the most thoughtful politician in the country on this subject, to think long-term about pensions is a clear sign that the new Government grasps the significance of the problem. Score: Phis.

Will the Government also be sensitive to the shifts in social attitudes that an older world will generate? Harder to say, but I rather think so. It may seem odd to suggest that the youngest prime minister this century will be able to act as a channel for older values, but in a way New Labour seems to represent these values better than old Tory. We will see: no score, just a point to watch.

Four - technology and in particular communications technology, for the rapid advances there will be the main anywhere in particular, is way technology makes an impact on the world through the next five years. (Sure, biotechnology is enormously

clear sign that politics are going oped world. This will lead to a advances there will not be mak-with the flow of economics. series of changes in both our ing a major impact on our lives in the next 10 years - it is the decade beyond that.)

> munications is not just a result of the Internet, though that is a key part of it. It is also slashing prices of telecommunications world-wide and transferring knowledge even more rapidly across the world. There is also a surge in global TV channels, growth in international trade in on-screen whitecollar services, and so on.

What do governments do about this? The short answer is "let it happen". This is an area of ecodomic development that has to be bottom-up rather than top-down, for we can only see what will win from the market signals. The UK starts from the advantage of a liberal telecommunications regime, and that will presumably continue. Presumably, too, the general tone of the Government will be "technology-friendly". Whether it realises that this technology is immensely liberating in that people no longer

another matter. The location of on-screen jobs is going to be one of the great areas of economic com-

need to be here, or indeed

say, the location of car assembly plants. Do they understand this? Do they realise that even the great on-screen money-The revolution in telecommaking machine of the financial services industry could be

> one, but watch it closely. than any other single input, the quality of human capital will determine economic success -

decade lies in patching gaps in people's education and "retrofitting" us with new skills. Does New Labour grasp this, or does it still think of education in terms of schools and universities? Score? Again, we just don't know. What we do know is that these forces will march on. The total score above is a couple of pluses, a minus, and a lot of

challenged from abroad? It is not yet possible to score this Finally, education. More

and, I guess, social success, too. But the lags are very long. Only one 40th of the workforce turns over each year, so while the key to the very longterm future may lie in the nursery schools, the key to the next

don't knows. Our lives will, a decade from now, be very different for reasons which have nothing to do with politics. Some aspects will be worse than today, but fortunately there will still be some politicians upon petition over the next five years, whom we can - wholly unfairly - pin the blame.

obituaries/gazette Professor **Donald Nicholl**

Donald Nicholl was one of the most widely influential of modern Christian thinkers, a teacher and writer whose words have inspired people in many countries and churches, and someone whose personal life wonderfully reflected his beliefs. But he was always a storyteller rather than a systematician.

The child of a working-class Anglican home in the West Riding, brought up in the poverty of the Depression years, Donald showed already at school an exceptional range of talents, intellectual and athletic. Almost six foot six, he was a young giant physically as well as mentally. When his teachers decided that he could best specialise in history, he sat for and won a Brackenbury Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford.

After a year there, he joined the Army and spent most of the Second World War in Asia. first in India and, finally, in Hong Kong. Asian religion already exercised a profound influence on the young infantryman at this time and helped him decide to become a Catholic - nothing less than Catholicism, perhaps, seemed able to encompass in communion the vast diversities he felt

so keenly. Returning to Oxford in 1946. he was received into the Catholic Church at Blackfriars. On taking a First, he was at once appointed to a lectureship in British History at Edinburgh from where, in 1953, he moved to Keele University, ever after his principal English home.

At that period Nicholl was struggling intellectually on two fronts: his formal responsibility was in medieval history, his informal in the intellectual and spiritual crisis of Europe in the early post-war years. He travelled in France and Germany, endeavouring to act as a bridge of understanding and reconciliation, above all with German Catholicism.

In this he was greatly helped by two women writers, one living and one dead. The living one, Ida Friederike Gorres, who had just published a passionate "Letter on the Church" denouncing the mediocrity of the German church and esnecially its clergy, became an intimate friend, while the dead one. Edith Stein, the Jewish philosopher and Carmelite nun who died in a Nazi concentration camp, became one of his chosen icons. Nicholl translated her life into English. At the same time he wrote an extremely wide-ranging and stimulating guide to all the "-isms" of the modern world, entitled

Recent Thought in Focus (1952). On the medieval side, he made a new translation of Dante's Monarchy to serve the needs of students unable to read Latin before going on to write his one full-scale historical study, a life of the 12thcentury Archbishop Thurstan

of York. He also learnt to read Welsh and Irish, believing that without this one could not hope to understand medieval Britain, still a somewhat unusual view among English medievalists.

Soon after Thurstan was published in 1964 Nicholl decided that he could not continue all his life becoming an ever more learned medievalist and switched back to the modern world, specialising particularly in the field of Russian religion. He taught himself Russian and, though for years he published little on the subject, other than a fascinating BBC lecture on Nikolai Fyodorov, became ever more deeply immersed in the development of the Russian religious mind in the 19th and

In the late 1960s he was in-

vited to become a visiting professor at the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California and after a while transferred there to become through most of the 1970s Professor of both Religious Studies and History and, for three years, chair of the Religious Studies department. At Santa Cruz he added the great religions of the East - Is-lam, Hinduism and Buddhism to his area of serious concern, and one of his most intriguing writings is a discussion of the problems involved in helping young American Jews understand the relationship between Judaism and Asian religion. He was always more a teacher than a pure scholar and probably the activity he enjoyed most in his Californian years was his course on The Brothers Karamazov open to all comers

Towards the end of his years in California, Nicholl wrote the much-admired book Holiness (1981) at the request of an old friend, John Todd, the founder of the religious publishers Darton, Longman & Todd. There then began four extremely demanding years, 1981-85, as Rector of the Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Studies at Tantur, near Jerusalem, where he battled not only to help crusty academics behave decently to one another but, still more, to relate both to Pales-

in the "Penny University" held

in the Café Pergolesi at Santa



Nicholi: 'knowledge of the heart'

est human and religious level. He later described his Tantur experiences in the form of a journal, entitled The Testing of Hearts (1989).
After retiring from Tantur

back to England and to his home near Keele, Nicholl continued a very active life as a retreat-giver, lecturer and writer. His major study Triumphs of the Spirit in Russia, a synthesis of many years of reflection, was finally completed last summer, just as he was diagnosed as suffering from inoperable cancer. It will be published by Darton, Long-man & Todd later this month.

Nicholl was an academic who lived for his students, and a human being who lived for friendship, concerned above all to further a culture of love - a word which came back and back on his lips in his final weeks. Married to Dorothy Tordoff, whom he had known since childhood, in July 1947, he died just short of their golden jubilee. It proved a wonderful partnership in which Dorothy provided, wherever they might be, the homely stability he needed to balance the life of a wandering scholar.

Always a Yorkshireman at heart, Nicholl combined the strong sense of being a northem English person with a wholly international network of friends, among whom one could name Leonard Cheshire, Mother Teresa and Jean Vanier. If he lacked the practicality which characterised those three great achievers, he more than made up for it in an at times almost uncanny power of perception.

Donald Nicholf spent the nine months of his final illness studying his Greek New Testament and, occasionally, taping a few of his thoughts. When I visited him on the last Sunday of his life, he was still able to ask me in a whisper to bring him a copy of Recent Thought in Focus so that he could point to a moving passage from Aelred of Rievaulx which he had included 45 years ago in an idiosyncratic appendix on the meaning of friendship. The consistency of his pursuit of what, following Pascal, he liked to call "the knowledge of the heart", was never more clearly revealed.

Adrian Hastings

Donald Nicholl, historian and thcologian: born Halifax 23 July 1923: Assistant Lecturer, Edinburgh University 1948-52; Lecturer and Reader in History. Keele University 1953-72, Pro-fessor of History 1972-74; Professor of History and Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz 1974-80; Rector, Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Studies, Tantur 1981-85; Senior Research Fellow, Multifaith Centre, Sellyoak, Birmingham 1985-88; married 1947 Dorothy Tordoff (one son, four daughters); died Betley, Staffordshire 3 May 1997.



Faye, centre, with Murray Leonard, left, and Keenan Wynn in Strip For Action, 1942 Photograph: Photofest

Joey Faye

Straight Man: Whisky? You shouldn't drink whisky! Look at me. I'm 51, but people take me for 30. That's because I've never touched the stuff?

Joey Faye: Well, I had an uncle who drank whisky every day of his life, and lived to be 83. And when he'd been dead three days he looked better than you do

This was just one of an estimated 18,000 routines and sketches in the comedic repertoire of the diminutive actor Joey Faye, once a headliner in burlesque. George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart were fans, and asked Fave's permission to use his "Whisky Bit" in their 1939 comedy The Man Who Came To Dinner. "George and Moss paid me back by booking me to play Banjo, the Harpo Marx character, when the play toured," said Faye. They switched my routine from whisky to candy.

At the age of 21 Faye made his New York stage debut at the Republic Theater, one of the chain of Minsky burlesque houses. He continued to work with the Minsky brothers until 1937, when Mayor Fiorello La Guardia put an end to burlesque in New York. Faye's first straight acting role was in the play Room Service (1938). He was cast as himself in Strip for Action (1942), Howard Lindson and Russel Course's doomsay and Russel Crouse's doomed comedy about a burlesque company performing at an army camp. Life soon imitated art when Faye joined Marlene

Dietrich's troupe, which enter- Tender Trap. He re-created the tained Allied servicemen throughout Europe and Africa during the Second World War. Faye had a key comedy role

in Allah Be Praised! (1944), a musical backed by the department store millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale. After a chaotic out-of-town opening, Bloom-inguale sought the help of the lay-doctor Cy Howard, who sat through a performance and then gave the legendary advice. Close the show and keep the store open nights." None the less, Bloomingdale brought the show to Broadway, where it van-ished after 20 performances. "Little Joey Faye, a good bur-lesque comedian," wrote the New York Daily News, "Works manfully with too little to do." The Duchess Misbehaves (1946) was no better; its original star, Jackie Gleason, wisely fled during the out-of-town try-out, cal's Broadway performances all five of them.

The following year Phil Silvers, who had worked with Faye in burlesque, invited him to play his fellow con-man in High Button Shoes, a musical which notched up 727 performances. They worked together again in the long-running Top Banana (1951), performing some vintage burlesque routines and repeating their roles in the film version (1954).

In 1955 Faye played the hung-over survivor of a boozy party in Max Shulman and Robert Paul Smith's play The

role the same year in MGM's screen version, and the New York Times observed: "Joey Faye does a very funny shorttake as something left over from the night before." His other films included That Touch of Mink (1962), Ten North Fred-erick (1958), North to Alaska (1960), How to Succeed in Busi-

ness Without Really Trying (1967), The Front (1976) and Once Upon a Time in America (1983). Faye made the first of his many television appearances as early as 1946. His Broadway theatre work also included Little Me (1962), Man of La Mancha (1968) and 70, Girls, 70 (1971). He wrote, directed and appeared in two compilations of vintage burlesque routines. In 1976 he supported Jerry Lewis in a revival of Hellzapoppin which died during its out-oftown try-out. A similar fate beand Faye unwisely stepped in, fell a musical version of Strip for Action (1956) and Three I. icate Ladies (1947), a comedymystery in which Bela Lugosi was inexplicably started as a gangster called Francis X.

O'Rourke. Joey Faye's favourite role was Estragon in Waiting for Godot (1959).

Joseph Antony Palladino (Joey Fave), actor, comedian: born New York City 12 July 1910: married first Eileen Jenkins (marriage dissolved), secondly Ginna Carr (deceased), thirdly Judy Carlin: died Englewood, New Jersey 26 April 1997.

Murray Kempton

New York is in mourning for Murray Kempton, the reporter on his bicycle, negotiating in his seventies the hazards of Manhattan's avenues, moving between assignments as though they were his first and only and listening, always, to his classical compact discs that hung around his neck like some kind of tribal necklace, a sign that he was of a different caste. And what a caste it was. "The man has brought more honour to newspapers than anyone in my lifetime," said his fellow columnist Jimmy Breslin, who should know.

Kempton was H.L. Mencken. reborn. Different, apart. What he saw and what he reported, no one else saw and no else would have even spotted because they hadn't got his eye, though they struggled mightily. And that's the reason why most of us, most of the time, had to read his sentences over and over again. They might as well have been in Latin, or Greek, for all we could have written them, never mind the deciphering. But they glowed, that we knew. And they did sing.

During his 45 years as a journalist. Kempton worked for the New York Post, the New York Review of Books, the defunct World Telegram and Sun, as a radio commentator for CBS, and finally for Newsday since 1981. He wrote more than 10,000 columns. He was a liberal, but hated political labels and confounded those who tried to put them on him by having friends on all sides. Richard Nixon was among them, Bill Clinton was

No president, no mayor, no vicar, no Mafia boss, no puffedup bureaucrat, pop-singer or delivery boy was quite the same after Murray Kempton had been in his neighbourhood taking in the vibes. They talked of his gift for irony, his passion for paradox, his incomparable knack for laying low the loftiest of men and women, nicely though. But in the end it was his honesty and his plain courage that shone through. He would have no truck with soppy sentiment, no time for pettifogging, no inch to spare for selfindulgence, or aggrandisement. He was of Scottish stock, originally, he used to remind me as though it was important, and it may have been. Although his ancestors, at least some of them, had been Catholic bish-

of the streets, which is the only ing to be in New York, not just because a bicycle affords an unusual view. Try any other route, among the many seductions offered every day, Trump Tower, the Plaza, Mortimer's, a lunch table at the Royalton with the champagne socialists. a cocktail at Prayda's with the bond-traders and the result, willy-nilly, is co-option. The chain gang. Kempton deftly avoided all this and won many prizes, including the mostcoveted Pulitzer for his columns in Newsday. Anyone who wishes can read some of them in a fine compilation entitled Rebellions, Perversities and Main

ops. Well, why not?

Events (1994), about which he said the editor was very good -"He picked them all, not me." In these pages you will find an endless parade of American life. Paul Robeson and Malcolm X Bessie Smith and Louis Arm strong. Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan. The book's cover has an artist's drawin hifelike, of Kempton next to his famous bicycle, which is how I ill always now remember him: The other Kempton was the

one I, a foreign correspondent in the US since the 1970s, knew better. In the United Nation where I once had an office courtesy of a British journal. Kempton would arrive, bicycle clips and record player in hand, and sit on the edge of my desk and talk. God, could he talk. It was not that I was anxious to go anywhere, to escape. To what sanctuary could one possibly slither in the corridors of the UN? And never, anyway, when Kempton was there to expound and elucidate on this or that guerrilla faction, functioning sporadically somewhere, at a distance that seemed so far removed from the East River upon which we gazed as to be. well, nowhere. But Kempton always made it seem somewhere. by historical reference and anecdote, brilliant memory or even personal encounter.

There was the occasional: out-of-town trip. One was a Reagan presidential excursion to Russia, a "summit" so-called before the fall of the Evil Eupire. In order to give the Gip. per a decent night's sleep we had landed in Finland. Kempton was despondent on arrival. There was a brass band, a dais and some soldiers presenting their rifles to us in perfect harmony. But for one who had covered Charlie Parker's funeral F understood that this could not have been a big deal. Kempton was wearing a raincoat, which was unusual and a bad sign, a sort of a resignation to gloom

in Scandinavia. The next morning, at the nice hotel, we were having breakfast, "How do you like Finland, Murray?" we asked, those of us who had awakened. Reagan was still asleep. "I think," he began, "that Richard Perle is right ..." (Richard Perle was an insufferable anti-Soviet courtier of Reagan's entourage who saw SS-20 missiles under every table napkin, even in Finland.) "I think, I mean I hope," said Kempton, "that Richard Kempton was, partly, a man Perle is right. That every country, sooner or later, is subject to landisation. I just hope they hurry it up." We all applauded because we all agreed, as we

always did, or most of us. Kempton once said, "There's no excuse for kicking somebody unless he's up." Murray Kempton used to kick people who were up all the time, and though he was half their weight and underpaid it was beautiful to watch. Quite beautiful.

Peter Pringle

The second secon

James Murray Kempton, journalist: born Baltimore, Maryland 16 December 1917; twice married (three sons, one daughter); died New York 5 May 1997.

Frank Streeten

Frank Streeten rendered outstanding service to English law and made statute law revision an art form. Except for a short period as Secretary, he served in the Law Commission's statute law revision team, from 1978 as its leader, for 26 years. His meticulous legal scholarship and his sensitive understanding of English social and political history made him well fitted to this task. Five massive Statute Law (Repeals) Acts were prepared under his leadership or at his direction.

He was born Reginald Hawkins Streeten, though he was always known as Frank, into

a legal family background in Bloemfontein, South Africa, in 1928. His first degree, at Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, was in English and Classics, and he then obtained an external LLB while working as registrar to a high

court judge in Cape Province. In Streeten's view, however, South Africa in 1952 was no place for someone of English descent, and he took a job as Crown Counsel in southern Rhodesia. In 1953 he was seconded to the office of the Attorney General of the ill-starred Central African Federation. His principal skills were as a legislative draftsman and when the Federation collapsed in 1963 he became a parliamentary draftsman in Zambia, where for three years he had the task of simplifying the country's laws.

But Streeten saw no future for himself or his family in Africa and in 1967 he came to London to look for a job. It was England's good fortune that he spotted an advertisement for a vacancy at the newly founded Law Commission when he was enquiring about settling in British Columbia. For it was at the Law Commission, and in the field of statute law revision, that Streeten came into his own.

Repealing outworn Acts of Parliament is not an exercise to be taken on by anyone wantonly or unadvisedly. Indeed, the first time I met Streeten, we were concerned to reinstate a 1777 act which had been repealed by mistake. Connoisseurs of this unusual art form will find his imaginative solution in Section 2 of the Statute Law (Repeals)

In 1993, one of my first jobs as chairman of the Law Commission was to sign Streeten's last report. I did so with pride. The report recommended the repeal, in whole or in part, of over 600 Acts which had been

"identified, after detailed research and consultation, as being spent, obsolete, unnecessary or otherwise not now of practical utility". The 1677 Act which set up a judicial inquiry into "the late dreadful fire in Southwark went that year, as did most of the Servants' Characters Act of 1792. These tests of uselessness were the tests Streeten perfected. And perfectionism in research and consultation was his watchword. I sometimes wish that some of our parliamentary masters

might learn from his techniques. His love of literature, too, was never far away. An 1887 repeal

Griffiths (Richards Butler) for the sec-

and, seventh, 10th, 15th, 16th and 18th

gave him the opportunity to revisit Thackeray's description of Colonel Rawdon Crawley's sojourn into a spongeing house in Fanity Fair. And at the final demise of the Beerhouse Act 1830, he quoted Sydney Smith's letter to John Murray: "The new Beer Bill has begun its operation. Everybody is drunk . . . The sovereign people are in a beastly state.

Nobody has more richly deserved appointment as CBE, which he received in 1991. When he retired in 1993, the Law Commissioners spoke of "a remarkable, perhaps unique period of public service devot-

ed to the simplification of the statute book". Looking back on it now. I am sure it was indeed

Henry Brooke

Reginald Hawkins (Frank) Streeten, barrister, born Bloemfontein, South Africa 19 March 1928: Crown Counsel and Legal Draftsman, South Rhodesia and Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1952-63; called to the Bar, South Rhodesia 1959; Parliamentary Draughtsman, Zam-bia 1964-66; Member of Legal Staff. Law Commission 1967-93, Head of Statute Law Revision. Law Commission 1978-93, Sec-



Streeten: simplifying statutes

retary 1981-82; CBE 1991; Legal Consultant to the Home Of-fice 1994-96; married 1962 Bodile Westergren (two sons);

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

GORARD: To Angela and Michael, an-other son, Dominic Michael Francis, on 3 May, A grandson for Roy. Bill and Antoinette.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Dake of Edinburgh, Housesty Life Member of the Royal Association of British Dusy Farmers, presents
Next I'v Research and Development in the Field of
Bruder, arreads receptions for warm people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edmburgh's
reception for the Air Langue at St James a Palace, Prison Edward artemia a reception and concert green by the
den ECC. The Princess Repail President Amesol Health Bross, attends a Council of Management Meeting, the
ini Company of Polintongers' Court Lakes Praner at Felimone Co. Hall, London EC. The Dake of Chares
offices of the institute and a Provident Chair to the
pital, attends a reception followed by a personners of Beauty Ratrest at the Times of London, London ECT.
The Duke of Econ opens the Neurological Theory
the Seven Association, white the Lyons Copine Activity Centre. Southernphore and presents the Royal Philipprovince Society's Abrural Marie Awards, at the
harmonic Society's Annual Music Awards, at the Outsire star Husel, Locales Wi, Princess Alexandra at-
the Road Marsken NES Trust London in the Managery House, London EC4
Charging of the Count

anging of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr Scobie Breasley, jockey, 82: Miss Teresa Brewer, actress, 66; Lord Briggs, historian, 76; Mr Peter Carey, writer, 54; Sir Charles Cunningham, former senior civil servant, 91; Mr Tun Collins MP, 33; Professor Alan Cuthbert, Master, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 65: Sir Reay Ged-des, former chairman, Dunlop, 85; Professor Robert Goodden, architect, 88; Sir James Gowans, former deputy chairman, Medical Research Council. 73; The Right Rev Robert Hall-iday, former Bishop of Brechin, 65; Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison, explor-er and author, 61; Mr David Hauch, former adviser to the Director-General, BBC, 58; Sir Lenox Hewitt, General, BBC. 58; Sir Lenox Hewitt, industrialist, 30; Sir Michael Hopkins, architect, 62; Lord Kirkhill, former Lord Provost of Aberdeen, 67; Mr David Leach, potter, 86; Mr Calum Macdonald MP, 41; Dr Tony O'Renlly, chairman, president and chief executive, H.J. Heinz, 61; Mr Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 53; Mr John Padovan, chairman, Mabey Hotdings, 59; Mrs Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, writer, 70; Mr William Pybus, former writer, 70; Mr William Pybus, former chairman, AAH Holdings, 74; Mr Christopher Saunders, Headmaster, Lancing College, 57; Miss Elizabeth Söderström, soprano, 70; Mr Clive Soley MP, 58; Mr David Tomlinson, actor, 80; Sir Alan Traill, for-

mer Lord Mayor of London, 62;

Maj-Gen Henry Woods, Vice Lord-Lieutenant, North Yorkshire, 73.

Anniversaries

Births: Robert Browning, poet, 1812; Johannes Brahms, composer, 1833; Gary Cooper, actor, 1901; Maria Eva Duane Perón, Argentinian leader, 1919. Deaths: Cospar David Fried-rich, landscape painter, 1840; William Hesketh Lever, first Viscount Levrestein Lever, hist viscount Leverhulme, soap millionaire, 1925; Max Miller, comedian, 1963. On this day: the first Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opened in London, 1663; HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship, was launched at Chatham. 1765; the qualifying age of women voters was reduced from 30 to 21 (the "Flappers' Vote"), 1928. Today is the Feast Day of St Domitian of Maestricht, St John of Beverley, St Letard or Lindbard and Saints Serenicus and Serenus.

Lectures

Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, Developments in English Sculpture 1880-1935", 1pm. Rothschild Collection, Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire: Nicola Kalinsky, "Sense and Sensibility: in-

stinct and intellect in the portraits of

Reynolds, Gainsborough and Rom-

John Gregory

ney", 11am.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of John Gregory will be held on Satur-day 31 May at 12 noon in St James's Church, Piccadille, I

rch, Piccadilly, London W1.

Court's jurisdiction to order production of documents Court of Appeal (Lord Justice

Nourse, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Ward) 28 April 1997 The High Court had jurisdiction to order the production of documents which were required to establish the jurisdiction of the court to try the action. The plaintiffs appealed against an order of Rattee J, dis-

missing their application for orders against third parties for the production of documents on the defendants' application for the service of the writ to be set aside for want of jurisdiction. The plaintiffs sought to

recover the proceeds of in-ternational frauds. The main proceedings were brought in England, basing the jurisdiction on the alleged domicile of the first defendant in the United Kingdom within the meaning of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 at the relevant date, which was either as the plaintiffs contended, the date of issue of the writ, or, as the defendants; Tom Ivony (Rakissons) for

LAW REPORT

appear and were not represented.

7 May 1997

the fourth defendant; Joe Smouha defendants contended, the date (Baker & McKenzie) for the 11th deof service. For the plaintiffs' protec-tion the judge agreed that service of the writ could be defendant. The other defendants did not

layed until protective orders were in place.
The defendants challenged the question in the appeal was whether it was a proper exerthe jurisdiction of the court, cise of discretion to refuse to make an order for the promaintaining that the plaintiffs had insufficient evidence to duction of documents at an establish the first defendant's interlocutory hearing on the domicile at the relevant date.

sole ground that they were wanted in order to establish the The plaintiffs applied for orders against a number of jurisdiction of the court. banks and other bodies re-The judge had treated the quiring production of copies of matter as one of principle, not documents in their possession discretion. He had refused the which were likely to furnish evapplication on the ground that, idence of the first defendant's where the issue was one of address at the relevant date. jurisdiction, the court would not Christopher Carr QC and Philip Marlend its process to a plaintiff shall (Denton Hall) for the plaintiffs; to enable him to establish Andrew Hochhauser QC and Martin jurisdiction.

That reasoning confused two different jurisdictions. One was the jurisdiction to try the action,

derived from the Brussels Convention and the Civil Jurisidetion and Judgments Act 1982

It depended on whether the first defendant was domiciled in the United Kingdom at the Lord Justice Millett said that relevant date. The other was the court's inherent jurisdiction to decide whether it had jurisdiction to my the issues in the action.

The High Court was a court of unlimited jurisdiction. That did not mean that its jurisdiction was universal and unrestricted. It meant that, unlike inferior courts and tribunals, it had jurisdiction to decide the existence and limits of its own jurisdiction. It followed that the udge's decision should be set aside. It was not, however, appropriate for the Court of Appeal to exercise the discretion

and accordingly the plaintiffs' application would be restored

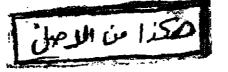
for hearing by the judge.

He would have to decide where the greatest risk of in-justice lay, but to bear in mind that interlocutory hearings to establish the right to bring an action should not be turned into mini-trials of the action itself.

His Lordship expressed his personal disquiet at a rule, said to be a rule of our own domestic law, which made the jurisdiction of the court depend on circumstances prevailing long after what, on any realistic appraisal of the position, was the commencement of the proceedings. As the present case capable of working serious injustice, and might need to be re-considered at the highest level.

In the meantime it was at least arguably incumbent on the court not to aggravate the possible injustice by withholding the assistance which it could properly give to parties seeking to establish its jurisdiction at the relevant date.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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Kempton

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business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

At last, independence for the Bank

Chancellor's move heralds cheaper long-term money

Diane Coyle and Nic Cicutti

Gordon Brown's snap decision to grant the Bank of England its immediate independence was greeted with amazement and delight by the financial markets vesterday.

The expected rise of a quarter point in base rates, to 6.25 per cent, added to the general City satisfaction. But homeowners will face higher mortgage costs as several big lenders increased their rates in reaction, raising the monthly cost of a home loan by about £13 for a typical £50,000 mortgage.

Share prices leapt to a new record, and the interest premium on British government debt fell by almost half a percentage

The Chancellor said the previous arrangements of monthly meetings between his predecessor and the Governor of the Bank of England had not generated enough confidence. The perception that monetary policy decisions have been dominated by short-term political considerations has grown," he said.

He said the Bank would have the operational independence to set interest rates in order to achieve the inflation target. "I want British economic success to be built on the solid rock of prudent and consistent economic management, not the shifting sands of boom and bust," he said.

The FTSE 100 index climbed above 4.500 for the first time. ending nearly 64 points higher at 4,519.3. Gilts soared to their highest level for three years as the premium over German bunds declined sharoly. In a less welcome response, the pound also moved higher, with the independence than the Chansterling index rising nearly a point to 100.6.

Most experts, in the City and outside, welcomed the Chancellor's decision. Economists takes effect immediately. The than they otherwise would in the the inflation target, which it has short term, but long-term borrowing costs would be lower.

said: "It's a stroke of genius. It est rates to achieve the target by

has caught all of us in the markets on the hop.

Michael Hughes, head of research at BZW. said: "The Government has taken an important and long overdue step iowards achieving the end of

stabilising the economy."

David Currie, a professor at the London Business School and Labour peer, agreed: "This is a very important break with the oast

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was, not surprisingly, delighted. "We will not be distracted by political considerations. We are doing a technical job." he said.

Mr George, who revealed that he had learnt about the plan on Monday morning, said would not have sought more

Main reforms BoE given responsibility for

- setting interest rates
- Government can resume control of interest rates 'in national interest'
- Monthly meetings between Chancellor and Governor to be abolished
- Creation of post of second deputy governor of Bank
- New Monetary Policy Committee created
- Court of Bank reconstituted BoE's role as Government agent for sale of gitts

transferred to Treasury cellor had offered, as the setting of the policy targets was right-

ly a political matter. The Bank's new independence will continue t said will be at least as tough as the current 25 per cent objective. James Barty, an economist at But a new monetary policy com-Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, mittee at the Bank will set inter-

majority vote. The committee will consist of the Governor, his deputy, a new second deputy, and four monetary experts ap-

pointed from outside the Bank. These four will be Bank officials, although not neces-sarily full time. They will, however, have to give up all outside commercial interests.

The main concern City economists had about Mr Brown's move was whether these new appointments would be subject to political pressures. Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe, said: "You could just get a range of Labour Party supporters making the judgement. That's not independence in any meaningful way."

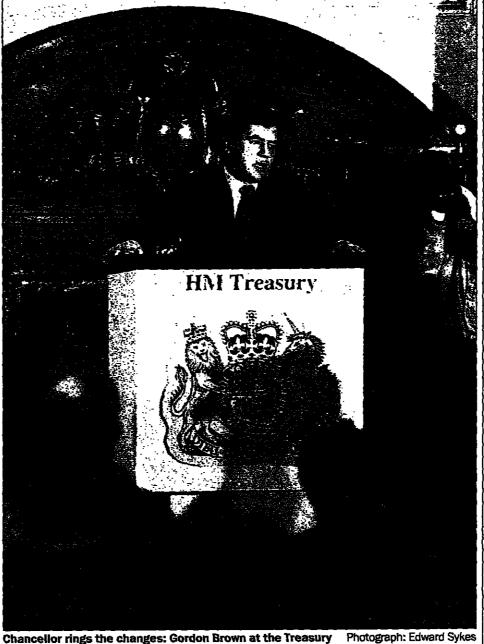
The committee, whose membership will be announced as soon as possible, will be ac-countable to the Treasury Select Committee of the House of Commons, Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs and considered a front-runger for the new deputy governorship, said: "This is an incentive for the Treasury committee to get better. This will be the prime form of political accountability.

The Chancellor's decision to raise interest rates on the Bank's advice yesterday, overshadowed by the more dramatic move, gained a more mixed reaction.

Mr Brown admitted that the strength of sterling meant there was a policy dilemma, and said. the Government wanted a stable and competitive pound over the medium term.

Two surveys yesterday high-lighted the dilemma. The monthly services indicator from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed further strong growth in the sector leading to higher wage costs. But a CBI industrial survey showed that manufacturers in all but one region had had to cut their prices because the exchange rate was hitting export orders. The increase in base rates will

also hit home owners. Mortgage lenders reacted within hours by increasing their rates by an average of 0.35 per cent to about 7.6 per cent.



The move was justified by lenders as being almost inevitable after months of delib-

erately keeping rates down. Andrew Pople, managing director of the retail division at Abbey National, whose tiered said: "An increase in hase rates had been expected for some months ... and the proposed independence for the Bank may mean that further base rate changes are possible in 1997.7

But Mr Pople added that he the recovery. Mortgage rates are did not foresee mortgage interest rare rises on the scale of the early 1990s during the pre-

sent Labour administration. The Halifax, which also raised the cost of its mortgages by 0.35 per cent, stressed the rates inmillions of savers, who outnumherered borrowers seven to one.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive at the Halifax, said: "We do

still at a relatively low level." Coventry Building Society also joined other lenders in raising its rates. Northern Rock stressed that the 6.09 per cent variable rates from its newly launched telephone arm would remain unchanged for the moment.

Mr Brown said: "We are setting out a framework to end the boom and bust instability of recent years.

Business chiefs welcome Brown's historic decision

Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark

Business leaders yesterday welcomed Labour's historic move to grant the Bank of England independence in setting monetary policy although there was not universal support for the latest hase rate rise. Adair Turner, director-

general of the Confederation of British Industry, said he very much welcomed the decision describing it as "a useful move in an intelligent direction". In a statement, the employers or-ganisation added: Business has pressed for month-tomonth interest rate decisions to be clearly free of political influence. This move will enhance the credibility of the UK's monetary policy, and over time lower the cost of finance for industry by reducing the risk

premium in UK interest rates. The CBI said that the tightening in monetary policy represented by the quarter-point increase in interest rates was necessary against the background of strong consumer de-mand. However, it urged the Chancellor Gordon Brown to use his first budget to raise personal taxes, thus making further base rate rises less necessary.

"This policy mix would reduce the imbalanace in forumes at present between exporters, whose profits are being hit badly by a strong sterling and domestic ser-vice industries, where inflation pressures are increasing.

British Steel is expected to deliver a similar message to Gordon Brown later this week when it sets out its views on how to curb inflation. The company has been one of the hardest hit by the appreciation of sterling. every 10 plenning rise against the German mark knocking £100m from its profits.

John Browne, chief executive of British Petroleum, the UK's largest company, echoed the feelings of many senior industrialists at the prospect of greater stability in economic policy making. "Clearly this is a good move. The track record atton attacked the rate of independent central banks in Europe is pretty good. he said. widespread inflation in the

Gavyn Davies

from Eddie George as Governor in-

Hot tavourite for the

second deputy govemership in charge of monetary policy.

Institute of Directors, which had been less than enthusiastic about Labour before the election. Tim Melville-Ross, IoD directorgeneral, said: "You can't accuse him of letting the grass grow un-der his feet. Despite the concem of IoD members dependent on the export trade Mr Melville-Ross said the interest rate rise

was "about right". He continued: "My on reservation about an independent central bank was removing all political control. But Mr Brown has answered that by having an inflation target set by Government. It's a pretty restricted freedom, though.

But exporters grappling with the strength of the pound, which has risen in value by 25 per cent over the past year, said the immediate outlook appeared even more bleak. Ironically the Engineering Employers' Federa-

∠ You can't accuse [Gordon Brownlof letting the grass grow : under his feet 9

tion (EEF) had written . Gordon Brown yesterday morning, before the dramatic annoucements, urging him to tighten economic policy through tax increases and spending cuts rather than interest rate hikes. The EEF feared that an independent bank would make the pound even stronger.

Jeremy Milier, EEF external

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mingham Cit,

affairs director, said: "Exchange rates are still affecting our members considerably. We'd rather he'd have taken a different measure than today's rate increase. If an independent bank makes the pound stronger

The House Builders' Federation attacked the rate rise, saying there was no evidence of The announcement added to housing market nor any serious Comment, page 21 Mr Brown's credibility with the risk of it in the immediate future.

Howard Davies

head financial stability. Made headines as

since 1994 having

first joined over 30

years ago, and with

Menyin King another hear certainty

for the new monetary committee

Seconded to the IMF, then became private secretary to the Governor.

Joined the board of the Stock Ex

change in the 1980s and became

deputy chairman last gest

Professor of banking and finance at the London School of

Economics #SE

Deputy Governor of the Bank of England

director-general of the CBI 1992

DTI role for Lord Hollick

Michael Harrison

Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media and one of Labour's most prominent business supporters, is set to be appointed special adviser to Margaret Beckett, the new President of the Board of Trade.

The media peer has long been a close confidante of the Prime Minister Tony Blair and was one of the handful of top executives chosen to promote Labour's Business Manifesto during the election campaign.

His appointment would invite comparison with the role that



Hollick: Set to be Margaret Beckett's special adviser

Lord Sterling, chairman of P&O, played under successive Conservative trade and industry secretaries during the 1980s. Lord Sterling acted as a special adviser to five secretaries of state between 1982 and

Lord Hollick was born in Southampton in 1945, the son of a French polisher, went to the local grammar school and joined the Labour party when he was 15. He went into the City, becoming the youngest director of Hambros Bank, before being asked to rescue a failing bank which he went on to rename MAI, the company

with which he made his fortune.
Whitehall sources were stressing yesterday that Lord Hollick, whose United News and Media group owns the Express titles and the Anglia and Meridian television franchises, would not be Mrs Beckett's only

Each member of the Cabinet is expected to be allowed to ap-point two political advisers. One other name mentioned as a potential special adviser to Mrs Beckett is Professor Mark Taylor, who played an important role in Mrs Beckett's inner team before the election.

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Source: FT Information

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Gavyn Davies is top contender for new role in monetary policy

Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, has emerged as the leading contender for a newly created position of joint deputy governor of the Bank of England. The appointment would give him a leading role in setting monetary policy following yesterday's dramatic decision by Gordon Brown to

hand responsibility for shifts in interest rates over to the Bank. Such an appointment would also put Mr Davies in pole position for the governorship when Eddie George's tenure ends next May. He is one of the most respected of City economists - as well as being an Independent columnist - and his wife. Sue Nye, is Gordon Brown's assistant.

The Chancellor's unexpected move, which gave effective independence to the Bank 51 years after it was nationalised by Clement Attlee's landslide Labour administration, marked a dramatic shift in the new Chancellor's attitude to an independent Bank that was greeted with unconditional approval by financial markets. Bond and equity traders now expect inflation and interest rates to stay low and the pound to weaken from its recent strength.

The Chancellor's dramatic move marks the end of the 'Ken and Eddie Show' but will bring new faces into the limelight

the most far-reaching in the a former Bank of England ad-Bank's 300-year history, drew the final curtain on the Ken and Eddie Show, as the monthly meetings between the former Chancellor Ken Clarke and the Bank's governor Eddie George were affectionately known, bringing to an end the increasingly personalised en-counters that had characterised

the setting of monetary policy. The expected appointment of Gavyn Davies to the deputy govemorship is part of the creation of a monetary policy committee which will comprise the governor, his two deputies and six other members. Four of the committee will be government appointments who are recognised experts

in monetary policy.

Academia is well represented in the list of those being tipped for the remaining slots on the committee, with the odds shortening on David Currie, a London Business School professor and working

The move, which was dubbed Labour peer, Charles Goodhart, viser who is currently a professor at the London School of Economics, Richard Portes, from the London Business School, and John Flemming, an-

other ex-Bank man from Nuffield College, Oxford. Runners and riders from the City include Tim Congdon, a Treasury wise person and hardline monetarist and Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief economist at

It is thought an industrialist is likely to feature on the committee, with Sir David Simon of BP a possibility.

The committee will meet once a month to decide whether interest rates need to be changed, using a government-set inflation rate target (currently 2.5 per cent) as a benchmark. Any changes will be announced immediately, with the minutes of the meetings released within six weeks of the meeting. The removal of interest rate

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decisions from the Chancellor marks a dramatic shift towards fully independent central

The new regime is under-stood to have been modelled on New Zealand's, where the central bank is also charged with meeting a government-set inflation rate target. In Europe, the French and German central banks are given a more gen-uinely independent remit of achieving "price stability", which they determine.

The proposed changes end the Chancellor's monthly meetings with the governor of the Bank. Norman Lamont established that formal ritual back in October 1992 in the wake of sterling's crash out of the ERM when a commitment arose to keep to a strict inflation target which the Bank would have a

part in setting. It was Mr Clarke's innovation in 1994, soon after his appointment, which saw minutes published six weeks after each meeting, bringing interest rate policy out into the open. The meetings were peppered with sharp disagreements between the Mr Clarke and the Governor.

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Tom Stevenson

assistant. A columnist for The he was at the CBI that interest rates should be lower fast track carele independent, he would not be tempted by a lesser position because has included stints at the Foreign he would have to give up a lucia. Office, consultants McKinsey and tive partnership at Goldman Sachs. the Audit Commission. Mervyn King tan Plenderleith A director of the Bank Executive director of of England since the Bank of England

Possible shape of new monetary committee

1998. His wife is Gordon Brown's ... 95. Told the Bank of England while

1990 and chief economist since 1991. A near certainty for the new monetary committee. Won Kennedy Scholarship to Harvard before embarking on academic career. A former member of the City Capital Markets

Committee and The Securities Association. David Currie Professor of economics at London Business School and

working Labour peer

tennobled last year).

Five years ago he became one of fright and is former Bank of the first batch of Treasury "wise. Educated at Floor Cambridge and men" or independent economics. Harvant before Today years experts, a post he gave up two harvant before Today with the manufacture of the written numerous within on monetary. Govern before returning to the ony and certifial bening as well academia in the 1970s.

Richard Portes Professor of economics at London Business School (LBS) since 1995 and a director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research since 1983. Academic career taking in Yale, Oxford, Harvard and Paris. Has written books on international macroeconomic

Tim Congdon Economic adviser to Genrard & National since 1989, a Trea 🚺 sury "wise person" for the last four years and known throughout the City as a hard-line monetarist. He was on the staff of the Times 1973 76 and then went into the City, firstly as

chief economist for L Messet. Has

also worked for Shearson Lehman

and SBW Insurance Research.

formation in Eastern Europe.

life studying and leo turing on economic chief advises 1980-84, es Cartrises to the Greener 1984 88 and their an eved the director until 1991: Chef extremist at the policy as well as economic trans-GBRD 1991-98 Paul Mortimer

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Yesterday's announcement was enough to take a full half-a-percentage point off long-term interest rates. If that's what surrendering half your job does for the

economy, we'll have

more of that please'

The right move, without a shadow of a doubt

etary policy has been such a swift one that the rather eccentric approach he eventually adopts should come as no surprise. It wasn't so many years ago that the new Chancellor was against it altogether, though to be fair he has accepted for some little while now that Bank of England independence is "a good thing" in principle - an acceptance that found its expression in the curious hotch-potch of half-way house proposals he announced a couple of months back.

The speed of Mr Brown's passage from that unsatisfactory compromise position to the present full embrace has surprised everyone, not least because up until yesterday Mr Brown always insisted that the Bank would need to earn its independence. Is this, then, policy on the hoof, policy made in haste for the purpose of grabbing the headlines and establishing Mr Brown's credentials as a great reforming chancellor? Such a momentous change, once the principle of independence is accepted, surely demands a period of public consultation and consideration before deciding on the structure to carry it out?

It is not hard to pick holes in the detail of Mr Brown plans. What is proposed is a peculiarly British approach to the problem. The Chancellor is like Tony Benni deciding on the future of nuclear power. He's gone for the made in British admined are applied to the made in British admined to the problem and the made in British admined to the problem. made in Britain, advanced gas cooled reactor option, and the design faults are already obvious. Certainly what is proposed is sub-

Gordon Brown's conversion to the cause stantively different to the existing great independently determined mon-Federal Reserve Bank in the US and the Bundesbank in Germany. The most marked similarity is with the approach adopted in New Zealand, but should we really be looking to a country of only 3 million people to set our economic agenda?

The Government will continue to set the main parameters of policy – namely the inflation target and perhaps also a semi-official exchange rate target too. That is not the case in Germany and the US. Moreover, the Chancellor's approach is also distinguished by the mechanisms he has chosen for making monetary policy more accountable both to the Government and the country than it often is in other parts of the world.

The monetary committee that will decide on interest-rate policy will in practice be appointed entirely by the Chancellor. Four members are automatically appointed by him, the Governor and two deputy governors will eventually be appointed by him, and the two Bank of England career men will have to be approved by him. It can readily be seen that the scope for "cronyism" is quite marked. The same is true of the Court of the Bank of England where the Chancellor will be making four of his own people directors as soon as possible. The Court will then progressively be made to reflect the country's

However, all these criticisms are nit-picking when set against the magnitude of the decision, which without a shadow of a doubt is the right one for any government, more so for an unproven Labour adminis-tration always likely to face an uphill struggle in establishing credibility with the markets. By tying his hands to an independent monetary policy. Mr Brown should be able to avoid those perennial financial crises that have bedevilled previous Labour govern-

ments, sapping them of their vitality and derailing their policies.

For John Redwood and Kenneth Clarke to say, as they did yesterday, that the new Chancellor is giving away most of his job is poppycock. Yesterday's announcement was enough of itself to take a full helf. enough of itself to take a full half-a-percentage-point off long-term interest rates, with the yield premium on British long bonds falling to within one-and-a-half points of their German equivalent for the first time in recent memory. If that's what surrender-ing half your job does for the economy, we'll have more of that please.

But let's not get too carried away in the cuphoria of revolution. There is one obvious difficulty with the new arrangements. one quite clear area with potential for conflict - the strength of the pound. The more hawkish monetary policy likely to be advanced by an independent Bank only reinforces that strength, fighting against the

As things stand we risk returning to the dog days of the ERM, when a combination of high exchange rate and short-term interest rates perpetuated deep recession. Here the solu-tion is in the Chancellor's hands, however. If he cools the economy with a rather tighter fis-cal policy, then the Bank will be able to ease off on short-term interest rates and the pound will begin to fall back once more. The Chancellor has shown himself capable of bold and decisive action; let's hope he can follow it through in the rest of economic policy.

Capital is music to Branson's ears

If Richard Branson's foray into railways proves anywhere near as lucrative as his stab at running a radio station, then the Virgin boss, or to be more precise the bewildering web of trusts that hold his assets, can

look forward to becoming richer still.

The £87m that Capital Radio is coughing up for Virgin Radio must be music to Mr Branson's ears. The station was launched a mere four years ago with comparatively modest investment, and although it broke into profit last year and has done better this year, the latest figures show it losing market share in the all-important and overcrowded London radio market.

But this, above all else, is a marriage of economy's need and the Government's convenience. Mr Branson's original plan was to live up to its billing, the desire for a more acceptable exchange rate.

do not make happy bedfellows. By selling out in exchange for a 14 per cent stake in Capital Radio he has done the next best thing gaining access to a quoted stock without the hassle of a listing.

For Capital, the deal provides access to the new digital radio age through the nation-wide AM frequency on which Virgin broadcasts. If this is the future of radio, then Capital has bought itself a ceat at the table at a ital has bought itself a seat at the table at a reasonable price that brings the wherewithal and critical mass to make a go of it.

So far, so Smashy and Nicey. Where is the downside? First, Virgin has built its appeal and its advertising revenues playing contemporary rock. In order to satisfy the Radio Authority's requirement to protect both diversity and plurality, Capital intends to devote Virgin's FM licence in London to a much more specialized and consequent. a much more specialised and narrower audience of male, hard rock fans.

Second, this is not a done deal. Although the merger will keep Capital safely beneath all the regulatory threshholds on market share, there is still a public interest test to pass and the authorities may conclude that Capital is just too big for its boots. The last time Capital applied for a new London FM licence, it was turned down. Third, Capital finds itself with a large minority shareholder on the books. Mr Branson is free to exit after two years. If by then digital radio is failing to live up to its billing, then both he and Cap-

IN BRIEF

Investors seek Bre-X damages

A New York law firm has filed a law suit against Bre-X Minerals, the Canadian gold mining firm whose claims to have discovered the world's largest gold deposit have been exposed as a hoar. Wechsler Harwood Halebian & Feffer is seeking class action status to recover damages for shareholders hurt by the scandal. Bre-X shares plunged on resumption of trading in Canada yesterday, falling C\$3.16 to C\$0.07. Almost 40 million shares changed hands, forceing the exchange to suspend dealings for an hour to enable trading systems to cope with the volumes. Bre-X shares hit a high of C\$280 last autumn.

serman unemployment up

Unemployment in Germany rose in April, casting further doubt on its ability to meet economic convergence criteria for the single European currency in 1999. Figures from the Federal Labour Office showed that unemployment rose by 8,000 to a seasonally adjusted 4,299,000. While politically sensitive unadjusted unemployment fell from 4,477,000 in March to 4,347,000 in April, giving a job-less rate of 11.3 per cent, economists called the figures disappointing. Hans Guenter Redeker at Chase Investments said: The fig-

ures will put more pressure on the government, throwing their forecast for a 2.9 per cent [ratio of 1997 budget deficit to gross domestic product] yet further into question." Industry orders for March showed a greater-than-expected rise of 1.1 per cent compared with February. Domestic orders rose 0.7 per cent in March from February but were down 4.2 per cent from a year earlier.

BP warns Brown on taxes

British Petroleum warned the Government not make big changes to the business tax system. John Browne, chief executive, also made clear the group's opposition to any moves by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to raise oil taxes in his July Budget. Mr Browne said: "We would not like the corporation tax system altered or rates to be adjusted. This would be bad in general and bad for us because this is our home country.

The comments came as BP announced record profits before tax and exceptional items of £755m for the first three months of the year, an increase of 19 per cent. Earnings from exploration Mand production surged by 24 per cent to £913m, while BP said there were signs that profit margins from refining and retailing were improving after last year's slump. The company also warned that it would need to spend at least \$100m (£62m) solving the mil-Investment column, page 22. lennium computer problem.

Unilever to meet pensioners

Unilever, the Anglo Dutch consumer goods giant, attempted to diffuse a rebellion from some of its 44,000 pensioners over use of an £800m pension fund surplus. Niall FitzGerald, chairman, told shareholders at the group's annual general meeting in London yesterday that he would meet pensioner representatives for talks on 19 May to try to sort out the grievances. They are unhappy that the company has used £260m of the surplus to de-clare a pensions holiday and cover future liabilities for fund members who took early retirement from the company.

Wace warns again on profits

Shares in Wace more than halved at one point yesterday after the printing services group shattered market expectations with its third profits warning in 12 months. The shares plunged 40p, before recovering to end 33.5p lower at 41p, on the announcement that the group would report operating losses both at the half-year and full-year stages in 1997.

The group said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said the improvement in its LIS by sineses had a server to be said to

The group said the improvement in its US businesses had not come through as expected, while a range of problems had hit European operations. The terms of a supply agreement with Hallmark, continued losses at an Irish plant, a reduction in demand for spirits labels and competition in the printing market were among the reasons cited for the difficulties. In March Wace revealed losses of £2.04m had replaced profits of £20.5m in 1996, but said it expected a recovery in the second half of 1997, which it now says will not be achieved.

Intel launches improved Pentium

Businesses were promised enhanced performance and speed as the world's leading personal computer makers helped Intel launch its latest chip, the Pentium II processor. The California-based company, which is said to have more than 80 per cent of the market for the components that power PCs, claims the product keeps it

at the leading edge by combining innovative and proven technologies.

In particular, by incorporating the MMX multimedia technology it launched earlier this year it offers corporate customers the capability to use "visual computing" to convert raw data into rich 3D models in seconds. Computer makers, such as Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Compaq and Gateway 2000, will start shipping models equipped with the new technology this week, and it is anticipated that private consumers will be able to buy them by the end of the year.

T&N sale will help asbestos fund

T&N, the automotive components and engineering group, said it has sold the Ferodo Caernarfon clutch facing and industrial in has some the 1 strainess to American investors for £5m cash, which would be put into the fund which has been established in which would be put into the rank which has been established in respect of future asbestos-related disease claims. In 1996, Ferodo Caernarfon recorded a pre-tax loss of £200,000 on sales of £9.6m.

Birmingham City warns on transfers

Birmingham City warned investors that it will make a loss in the full year if the club makes large player purchases, as it writes off transfer fees to profit and loss as incurred. The statement came as the AIM-listed club posted pre-tax profits of £2.7m for the six as the AIM-listed club posice pre-tax profits of 22.7m for the six months to 28 February. The figure included a net profit of £1.4m on player transfers, principally the sale-of Gary Breen to Coventry City. Birmingham said proceeds from the sale will be re-invested in new signings.



On May 1, as the country looked to its future, we were doing much the same.

By merging the two leading law firms Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co into a new critical mass that instantly ranks as the 8th largest law firm in Europe.

The new firm is named Cameron McKenna and the "fit" has already been reported as being exceptionally good for clients.

From Day One Cameron McKenna is a major corporate and banking practice, and a leading City presence in property and litigation.

It also offers in one firm a market leader expertise in many of the world's most dynamic commercial sectors.

Including energy, insurance, biotechnology, healthcare and construction.

As well as major infrastructure projects, financial services regulation, and pensions.

In short, as flying starts go this one can already be said to have taken off.

Particularly for clients who prefer not to pay for learning curves.

For more information please call Robert Derry-Evans, Managing Partner on 0171-367 3000.

cameron mcKenna

Not bad for a first day

Capital acquires Virgin Radio

Cathy Newman

Capital Radio yesterday moved to position itself for the pending digital radio battle with the BBC by acquiring Virgin Radio. which was founded only four years' ago by Richard Branson.

Some City analysts, however. believed that Capital had paid a high price for Virgin's two commercial stations, Virgin AM, which broadcasts nationally, and the London rock station. Virgin FM. Assuming debt of £22m. Capital's investment amounts to almost £90m and equates to almost five-and-ahalf times revenue.

One analyst said: "Capital does have a phenomenal track record in radio. If anyone could do this deal and get away with it, Capital could."

However, other analysts were relieved that Capital had decided to consolidate its hold on the other two national com-

company's diversification into restaurants with the purchase of the My Kinda Town chain last year had caused concern.
Lorna Tilbian, media analyst

at Panmure Gordon, said Capital had paid a "very full" price, but she added: "Strategically, Virgin fits in well. It's in Capital's heartland." Capital is funding the deal en-

tirely in shares. Virgin will be is-sued with 11.87 million Capital shares, giving it a 14 per cent stake in the enlarged group. Mr Branson will join Capital's board as a non-executive director.

Richard Eyre, managing di-rector of Capital, claimed that the deal was "good news for listeners, regulators and advertisers". Mr Branson said the merger allowed both companies to challenge the BBC's "dominance" of digital audio broadcasting.

Virgin AM, in common with the radio market. The mercial stations, is guaranteed



On the air: Richard Branson with presenter Russ Williams at Virgin Radio's opening. The station's emphasis will now change

a digital licence next year. Some observers, though, have been underwhelmed by the prospect of digital radio, which, although providing CD-quality reception, does not allow for an increase in the number of stations.

Capital will also seek "further co-operation" with Mr Branson's other business interests, including his overseas radio operations which could even-

Media Group - the newly formed umbrella company tually be absorbed into Capital. Cost savings from yesterday's deal will be made by moving which controls Virgin Net, Vir-Virgin from its location in gin Radio International, and Golden Square in London's West End to Capital's offices in Virgin Television. Mr Campbell is to work on a digital television Leicester Square. David Campbell, chief execproject which will launch at the

end of the year. Capital is to change the emphasis of the Virgin stations to attract less mainstream and more male listeners. It will also

create a distinct London rock station on the FM service.

Capital will sell airtime for its own and Virgin's stations. As a result, it will withdraw from Media Sales & Marketing, the radio sales house it acquired in 1989. Stations owned by Emap and GWR and currently sold by MS&M will as a result have to seek alternative representation. Comment, page 21

Setback for Eurotunnel's £1bn claim

Michael Harrison

Eurotunnel suffered a fresh setback yesterday after an independent panel of experts threw out the vast bulk of its fibn claim against the consortium that built the Channel Tunnel, Transmanche Link.

The five-man Anglo-French panel ruled that a large number of Eurotunnel's compensation claims relating to the passenger and freight shuttle trains supplied by TML were inadmissible.

.The ruling is a blow to Eurotunnel, coming as it does a matter of weeks before it seeks approval from shareholders and banks for the refinancing of its £8.7bn debt mountain.

A favourable ruling from the panel would have helped sen-timent as it attempts to persuade shareholders to back a deal which could see Eurotunnel's bankers emerge with a stake in the tunnel of more

than 60 per cent. Eurotunnel sought to put a brave face on the defeat, saying that it may still take its claims to arbitration before the International Chamber of Commerce.

However, TML was cock-ahoop with the verdict, saying it vindicated the position it had taken all along in its dispute. A spokesman for the five British and five French construction firms that make up TML said that the panel's ruling "nullified" Eurotunnel's

The panel said Eurotunnel

was entitled to damages for faults in some of the rolling stock but could not seek compensation for loss of revenues owing to late arrival of the shuttle trains. It suggested that the two sides negotiate appropriate compensation between themselves.

SEAD VOLL

0236 ALA

According to TML, the claims upheld by the panel relate to less than 5 per cent of the £1bn claimed and concern only defects on the HGV shuttles.

Eurotunnel disputed this. suggesting that while many of the claims had been rejected. it was still entitled to substan-k tial compensation. It said its board would

decide whether to submit the claim to arbitration. Eurotunnel has 90 days to make a decision. The panel, chaired by a

French lawyer. Phillipe Malinvaud, also ruled that a £40m counter-claim filed by TML was inadmissible.

However, TML indicated that the claim, for extra work done on the tunnel and the costs of defending Euro-tunnel's action, was likely to be pursued since it was not rejected on substantive grounds.

The fleet of nine tourist shuttles and eight HGV shuttles cost £705m to build compared with an original estimate of £252m.

The HGV shuttles arrived six months late and the tourist shuttles a year late, forcing Eurotunnel to delay the launch of the respective services until May and December 1994.

Whisky producers may link up

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

William Grant & Sons, one of Scotland's best known whisky distillers and the producer of the Glenfiddich single malt, could

be close to a link-up with one of its struggling rivals.
The Scotch whisky industry is rife with speculation that William Grant is in talks with Burn Stewart Distillers, the publicly quoted whisky group which has seen its

with its auditors. Though the deal is expected to stop short of a full-scale takeover or merger, it is thought

shares slump following a dispute

that William Grant may take a stake of up to 49 per cent in Burn Stewart. It would involve Stewart issuing new shares while the two groups would pool their own-label operations which produce Scotch for supermarkets.

The details are included in the May issue of Scottish Business Insider, which was published yesterday. It says the two sides have been in talks for some time and that Grant was initially seeking as much as 50 per cent of Stewart.

Neither company was available for comment yesterday. However, Alan Gray, the whisky expert at Sutherlands, the Ed-

inburgh broker, said: "I can't say whether there is any truth in it. but it is certainly plausible." One London analyst com-

mented: "It wouldn't surprise me for one minute. Both groups have own-label operations and they have been under-cutting each other for some time. Putting the two divisions together would ease competition and improve margins." The deal would help Burn

Stewart as it has high gearing and has been under pressure since an accounting dispute forced it to defer £2.3m of profits until the second half of the current year.

For William Grant, the pooling of resources in the own-label market would be one benefit. The deal could also involve a clause under which Burn Stewart would buy its grain whisky

utive of Virgin Radio, and Andrew Mollett, the financial

director, will leave but will re-

main with Mr Branson's Virgin

from Grant. William Grant & Sons is privately owned and run by the Grant Gordon family. It made profits of £26.9m on sales of E254m last year. Burn Stewart's profits slumped from £4m to film last year due to the deferred profit on whisky stocks.

Burn Stewart shares remained unchanged at 60p yesterday. They were floated at 140p in 1991.

Norwich members in line for £800 on float

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Norwich Union, one of the UK's biggest mutual insurers, yesterday unveiled plans to give its 2.9 million qualifying members free shares worth about £800 each when it floats on the

stock market next month. Norwich Union expects to hand out 1.3 billion free shares. Qualifying with-profits policy members will entitled to a minimum of 300 shares each, with more handed out on the basis of how much has been invested.

Qualifying non-profit policy

discount on £1.75bn of shares it is planning to sell in an additional capital-raising exercise. Of this money, £1.5bn will be paid into Norwich Union's withprofit fund, to replace the value of the company's general insu-

members will each receive a

fixed allocation of 150 shares.

also offer members a significant

The company said it would

rance arm previously held in it. Details of the discount will be sent to members after 21 May, with dealing set to start on 16 June. The minimum application

Company Results Dividend Turnover £ Pre-tax £ Bireshejbaur Çily (I) British Petraleum (Q1) 752m (629m)* 10.6p (12.9p)t 5.25p (4.25p) 3.38m (-1.81m) 21p (-17p) Capital Radio (I) 53.9m (38.1m) 17m (15.6m) 15.1p (14.1p) 4.3p (4p) Chesterfield Properties (F) 37 9m (37.2m) 1.8m (7.97m) -11.35p (20.8p) 13.4p (-) Cott TelecomGroup (01) 15.0m (4 89m) -2.87m (-6.65m) -0.04p (-0 06p) - (-) Lambert Smith Hasonion (F) 33.0m (8 26m) 1 6m (-1 3m) 10.9p (-76.9p) 1 Ep (-) 170m (175m) 10.9m (9 77m) 39.5p (37.1p) 20p (18.75p) Linton Park (F) 8.53m (6.77m) 1.61m (1.4m) 4.04p (3.13p) 0.5p (-) 63 2m (141m) 17.4m (-4.01m) 21 8p (-5.4p) 1p (1p) Raphael Zoro Hemsley (I) 356m (2.81m) 1.20m (0.74m) 8.4p (5.3p) - (-) for shares will be £400. Closing date for applications is 10 June. It is found that exceptionals to specify the second state for applications is 10 June.

Pressure mounts for BP buy-back

singing Labour's campaign anthem, "Things can only get better", as they unveiled yet another set of record profits for the first quarter yesterday. Whether or not the chairman, Sir David Simon, decides to join Tony Blair's merry band, the stock market was cheering. The share price ended 29p higher at 732.5p as analysts asked the big question: whether BP will be tempted into a more ambitious exercise to return value to investors, BP's chief executive John Browne cautiously insisted share buy-backs or special dividends were not on the immediate agenda yesterday, but with numbers like these the markets are salivating.

Progress in all directions was better than expected. Replacement cost profits before taxes and exceptional items. in dollars was up 27 per cent, the dif-ference reflecting the surge in sterling over the past year. The return on cap-ital climbed to 19 per cent, the kind of

ing for as much as \$25. So far in 1997

disease, the group is now ready to test launched before 2000, might sell into prices have dipped to \$18, which BP its use against chronic fatigue syndrome, also known as ME or "yuppie flu". A depend, however, on whether it can trading range of between \$16 and \$19. This compares with the company's internal benchmark for investment projects of an ultra continue to the state of the

projects of an ultra cautious \$14.

Against falling prices. BP has seen even faster benefits from its self-help programme, chanted like a corporate mantra from office to office in the hunt for extra profit. To recap, the target set in 1995 was to save \$1.5bn over five years from cost cutting and higher pro-ductivity, yet last year alone BP saved \$600m and promptly brought forward its timetable by 12 months.
In this quarter it has saved another

\$120m and is hoping for even more to-wards the end of the year, so the internal target for 1997 of \$300m looks increasingly conservative. Part of the drive behind these improvements comes from naked self-interest, as BP

executives get their full personal bonus-es if savings reach twice the target level. After a dividend hike in the last quarter it was too much to hope for another one this time, though further increases in the second half are now certain. There is no constraint from borrowings. which at \$6bn compare with long-term aspirations of \$7bn to \$8bn, but the reason Mr Browne remains cagey about raising the payout is, or course, political. Dishing out cash in special dividends or buy-backs would be a red rag to Labour as the other Mr Brown (Gordon that is) contemplates raising North Sea oil tax. Yet the pressure from the market for BP to do something by the

The management at British THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Petroleum could well have been

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

British Petroleum: At a glance

Market value: £41.5bn, share price 732.5p

1995

15.25

1996

46.7

19.5

put the shares on a forward multiple of 14. Currently yielding 3.3 per cent and with the case for special payouts all but unanswerable, the shares are a definite hold.

Shire's portfolio is blossoming

Shire Pharmaceuticals is putting in a strong bid to be taken seriously as more than just a biotechnology the best underlying measure of per-formance, surged by 19 per cent in ster-chunky £105m acquisition of Pharmaling terms to £755m, while the result vene, a US drugs delivery group, yes-

over the past year. The return on capital climbed to 19 per cent, the kind of figure Shell's top team would die for.

Better still, BP appears to have Better still, BP appears to have wider medical proportionally thought. Initially falling oil prices after the excesses of erties than originally thought. Initially 1996, when a barrel of crude was sell-indicated for use against Alzheimer's

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£bn)

Earnings per share (p)

Operating profit

First quarter 97, £m

8000 -

Dividends per share (p) 10.5

Turnover (£bn)

end of the year is becoming intense. 300-patient trial into both efficacy Full-year profits of £2.94bn would and tolerability will start later this month, with another involving 60 people in Iceland due to start in September. If it ever reaches doctors' surgeries, perhaps in 2005, it could be attacking a \$2.5bn market for which there is no current treatment, the company believes. But there is more, for early observations using galanta-

mine against Alzheimer's appear to

show it is effective against both

rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. two other big markets. Meanwhile, analysts are excited by the prospects for Lambda, a treatment for reducing phosphate levels in the blood of people with kidney disease. Untreated, a build up of phosphate can lead to bone disease. Shire is already the market leader in the UK in this area with its calcium carbonate product, but Lambda is said to offer substantial improvements. The potential market is 1.6 million patients world-wide and this

could be the first drug to be marketed outside the UK directly by Shire. Finally, Shire reckons Nifedipine SR, a cardiovascular which could be

First quarter

1997

13.3

1995

10.33

0.633

11.3

4.25

overcome expected legal action from Pfizer, the current market leader.

The wide portfolio at Shire is matched by the depth of its management. Much still depends on the outcome of the phase III tests for the Alzheimer's drug, due in September, but Lehman Brothers estimate the shares' net present value at 274p, rising to 364p next year. That is below the current market price of 219p, up 2p, and makes them a reasonable punt.

Sidlaw repackages its strategy

Sidlaw has been through the wars since its disastrous 1993 decision to step up the scale of its flexible packaging operations. That led to losses over the past two years and a plunging share price, but John Durston. who took over as chief executive in the autumn, is starting to use his experi-

ence in the industry to good effect. Last year's move to dump the oil ser-vices business took the decision to concentrate on packaging to its logical conclusion. But Mr Durston has also put a lot of effort into improving customer service and efficiency, two areas which appeared neglected under the dash for volume policy which led Sid-law astray before. The fruits of these labours are reflected in the group's halfyear results to March, although the figures are distorted by the £17.3m profit on the sale of oil services and a £1.7m charge for rationalisation.

Stripping that lot out, the underlying pre-tax total rose from a loss of £1.41m to a profit of £1.75m.

The proceeds of the disposal of oil services cut the interest charge from £2.09m to £162.000 and left net cash of £3.3m in March. The group reckons it has firepower for £25m of acquisitions, but nothing is imminent. In the meantime, it will be pushed into bor-rowings again by a £12m capital expenditure programme this year.

Part of the spending will help service a £6m-a-year contract to supply Cadbury with wrappers and should also improve efficiency. Sidlaw also claims to have won back most of the customers lost during its difficult patch.

The problem remains, however, that the group is still highly dependent on mature or declining markets like biscuit packets and bread bags, which remain at the mercy of the supermarket price wars. Even with innovative products like its P-Pius "breathable" fresh-produce wrapper, it still has to prove it is not just running to stand still. Profits of £3.5m in the full year would

put the shares, down 3p at 103.5p, on a forward p/c of 23. The shadow of pre-vious rights issues at 275p and 180p hangs over the shares, but they are probably still worth holding.

Nursing an ambition to succeed on the buses

Ann Gloag may now preside over the £1.4bn Stagecoach transport empire which she cofounded with her brother Brian Souter, but she spent most of her earlier life as a nurse. So it is entirely appropriate that she should donate £180,000 to the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, to found a new academic chair in nursing.

Mrs Gloag says: "I remember my 20 years in nursing, years I greatly enjoyed. It was always my intention to succeed in business and when I did to do something positive to help young people who have chosen a career

The Ann Gloag Chair of Nursing (Development) will reside in the University's associate faculty of nursing, midwifery and community studies. Mrs Gloag's donation will fund the chair for three years.

While most of us may be expecting a reasonably healthy UK economy for another two years or so, the insolvency profession is two years or so, the insolvency profession is already gearing up for the next crash. This month's issue of Legal Business magazine carries the following blood-curdling full-page job ad: "Liquidation. Receivership.

Bankrupicy. (A few cheering words for insolvency lawyers.) What goes around comes around. When the next recession arrives our client, one of London's most profitable and progressive law firms will be more than progressive law firms, will be more than prepared to take advantage of it."

Jonathan Brenner, whose recruitment consultancy, Zarak Macrae Brenner, placed the ad, says the law firm involved is "banking on a dip in the economy in about 18 months' time". You heard it here first. And the lucky lawyer to get the job will be paid up to £300,000. It's an ill wind, and all that.

My heartiest congratulations go to Mark Herbert, an old pal of mine who has just been appointed director of communications at Tl Group, the international engineering business Mr Herbert, 38, has already racked up considerable experience in corporate spindoctoring. He managed corporate communi-cations for Lucas Industries, and had stints at two consultancies, Shandwick and Lowe Bell

But those of us who attended Birmingham University with Mark 17 years ago think of him in quite different terms; primarily as a songwriter for a rock group called the Struggling Artists, a beat combo of note in the early 1980s – well, in the Selly Oak area, anyway. Mark penned the lyrics for "You want to know" and other campus classics.

"It was all a long time ago." Mark murmurs, modestly. Well a pedigree like that is nothing

modestly. Well a pedigree like that is nothing to be embarrassed about. Tony Blair, after all, is famous for having played in a rock group called Ugly Rumours while at university, and it didn't do him any harm.

The London Investment Banking Association (LIBA) has just published its annual report, and interesting reading it makes. Under the heading "Regulatory Developments," LIBA mentions the collapse of Barings, the missselling of pensions and the Maxwell affair,

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Ann Gloag: Once a nurse, now presiding over the £1.4bn Stagecoach business

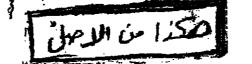
It observes: "It must, nevertheless, be questioned how far any of these failures was the result of the structure of the regulatory regime, and whether a shuffling of that structure is the best way to give assurance that the next decade will be freer of such

I see that LIBA does not mention certain other recent episodes, such as the aborted bid for the Co-op by Andrew Regan, which drew down such furious criticism upon the head of Sir Chips Keswick, chairman of Hambros. As it happens, Sir Chips is also a member of LIBA's chairman's committee, and himself chairs LIBA's banking committee. Alas, LIBA may see some "shuffling" of regulatory

Lord Alexander is nearly ready to unveil the newly refurbished NatWest Tower in the heart of the City, four years after the Bishopsgate bombing. NatWest's chairman has decided that the tower's floors are too small for the

demands of modern banking, which requires large dealing floors.
He is therefore offering to rent the landmark office building out as a "sophisticated multi-tenanted office complex" where Nat West will supply all sorts of state-of-theart services and amenities. Makes a change from traded options, I suppose.

John Willcock



Data Bank FTSE 100 4519.3 +63.7 **FTSE 250** 4520.2 +22.1 FTSE 350 2203.3 +27.0 SEAQ VOLUME 766.7m shares, 54,901 bargains Gilts Index Share spotlight

Banking on independence, Footsie scales new peaks

Only two working days under Labour and Footsie has soared it into spendthrift ways. 74.3 points to a 4,519.3 peak.

New York.

The dramatic thrust through 4,500 takes Footsie beyond the spring-time projections and close to some optimistic year-

Footsie has risen 93.4 points since John Major's election call and, incredibly, has made progress in 14 of the last 15

The level of independence given to the Bank sent gov-ernment stocks romping ahead by approaching £5, their best display for years. The move to allow the Bank to set interest rates was viewed as helping to counter fears the Govern-

Many had expected the Yesterday's surge was spurred by the changes at the Bank of England which prompted gilts to prosper, a centage-point interest-rate increase. Although the bank is lower-than-expected interest-rale increase and yet another next few weeks the modest rip-roaring performance in interim measure had been discounted.

Against such a background, further enhanced by encouraging company results and prospects, it would have been astonishing if shares had not responded. But there was talk blue chips had got ahead of the

vance, should it continue, would drive the stock market further ahead. But with sterling again moving forward and increasing the pressure on exporters and international groups, more interest-rate increases in the pipeline and

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

ican investment house If he is right it could mean the adage advising investors to sell in May and buy again on St Leger Day will produce

rich rewards this year. The latest advance was, for once, not confined to blue chips. The supporting FTSE 250 index put on 22.1 points although it is still a considerable distance from its peak level. Privatised companies were,

probably tinkering with ACT, some market men were decidedly jittery about the future direction of shares.

"The market has peaked; it is now a screaming sell," said then on Friday with most managing to attract plus signs. Railtrack, however, was shunted 12.5p backwards to 424p and BG, on the surface, suffered a 10.5p fall to 171p. But the shares had to contend then to £1.44pin. Cobham, the engineer, firmed to 631.5p following an analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following an analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following an analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following an analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following an analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following an analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following and analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following and analysts visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following analysis visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support. BAT Industries, following analysis visit and British Steel shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support shrugged off sterling's strength, improving to 148p on US support shrugged off sterling's strength. with stripping out a 10.13p div-

idend payment.

Reed International, celebrating a \$30m five-year link with Microsoft, added 15.5p to 590p. Last night it met fund managers at a dinner, hosted by Henderson Crosthwaite at

London's Savoy Hotel.
BTR rose 6p to 267p, helped along by Credit Lyonnais
Laing support. The investment house believes the shares

and the group's new strategy will "reverse the share price underperformance of the last pected to advance from £1.25bn to £1.33bn this year and then to £1.44bn.

tobacco litigation which powered Wall Street higher on Monday, gained a meagre 12.5p to 534p. Yet another profits warning

from Wace, the printer, sent the shares crashing 33.5p to 41p after 34,5p. Last year they were

279p. British Petroleum produced better-than-expected firstquarter figures and, despite the declining crude price, gushed 29p to 732.5p; BSkyB, nine-

28.5p to 595.5p on expectation the figures will be accompanied by details of its digital televi-sion venture with Matsushita of Japan and BT Cable and Wireless put on 12.5p to 482p; there is talk it is at last near to

completing a deal over its
HongKong Telecom off-shoot.
Financials were again strong
with Barclays up 46.5p to a
1,191.5p and National Westintere is talk it is at least to
tould be adding to its stake.
In February the acquisitive
group acquired Citigate, the
financial PR business, in a
reverse takeover.

minster up 23.5p to 751p.
Whitbread, on talk of noncore asset sales, gained 21.5p
to 790p ahead of figures today. High flyer PizzaExpress came a little nearer earth, Jamus Capital fund appeared to cut its stake from 16.9 per cent

to 15.27 per cent. Newcomer Salehurst, a paper supplier, traded at 124p from a 117p placing and on Ofex Energiser, the health food business, jumped 50p to

20 2651 Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 52 264 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/semings (P/t) ratio is the share 52 267 price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

10 2651 Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unisted Securities Market's Suspended 2651 pp Partiy Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AM Stock

10 2651 Source: FT Information

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description independent index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0881 12 For assistance, cell our helpline 07/1 8/3 43/8 (900am - 500pm).

nd 920000 ASDA Group 880000 Glass Wellcome 850000 Geneal Elect. 840000 Tarres 800000 Cable & Wife

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

1730000 EP 180000 Ballah Shed

to a sum-of-the-parts valuation month results today, gained [I] oper, the advertising and marketing group, rose 2p to 39.5p, a 12-month high.
Incepta, the advertising and public relations group headed by entrepreneur Bob Morton, has nearly 11 per cent and could be adding to its stake.

> DPA-Egami, developing packaged electronic document management systems, is the latest to head for Ofex. It High flyer PizzaExpress recently pulled in £450,000 through a private placing and falling 12p to 652.5p as the US through a private placing and its market début will not pro-

> > Greenalls, the hotel and pub chain, should roll out in-terim profits this month of £63.6m against £57m, say Nikko, the Japanese securi-

Wace

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Tigers bank on style of Stransky

Chris Hewett meets the man from Cape Town who holds the key for Leicester against Sale in Saturday's Pilkington Cup final

Decisions, decisions, Bob Dwyer has been confronted by some real brutes in his first season as Leicester coach - no one drops Dean Richards to the bench without a dozen stiff drinks and a reassuring visit to the nearest psychotherapist - but the most important judgement of all did not require even the slightest scratch of the head, let alone a long, solitary night of agonised contemplation.

When Peter Wheeler, the Tigers chief executive, asked Dwyer whether he might be interested in discussing the possibility of Joel Stransky moving from Cape Town to Welford Road, he was

not kept waiting for a reply. thought about it for, oh, a good second before snatching his hand off." recalls the master tactician from Sydney.

"Let's face it blokes like Stransky don't come knocking on your door too often. Yep, I said, we'll settle for him.' Any side in the world would be happy to have Joel on the team. There are very, very few complete outside-halves operating anywhere at the moment, but you can include him in any list you care to compile."

Dwyer may not rate Stransky's capture as the high water mark of his rugby achievement - "It wasn't much of a gamble, was it?" - but for the thousands who have paid their money at the Welford Road turnstiles over the last five months, the South

African has proved the most in-spired signing imaginable. When the supporters talk of the 29-year-old Springbok from Pietermaritzburg, they seldom bother to refer to his World Cup-winning drop goal against New Zealand in 1995. Nowadays, they bask in the more homely glories of his match-winning performances in Courage League and Pilkington Cup.

Indeed, they confidently ex-pect him to win the "Pilko" for Leicester at Twickenham this weekend. Preferably, the Midlands hordes would like to see their favourite import rip the heart from the Sale midfield with his shrewd

running angles, To be frank, I deceptively sharp scuttles don't think I have into space and his ever-widena chance of ing repensoire weighted being picked to cut-out passes. If not, they will face the Lions' gleefully settle for a nap hand

of long-range penalties and a couple of howitzer drops - in other words, a mirror image of the 21-point haul that did for Gloucester in a tight semi-final back in March.

But having sampled the mucky end of the stick in recent weeks as Leicester's championship bid spluttered to a standstill, Stransky is taking nothing for granted. "After all we've been through as a team - and remember, the rest of the guys had played four months of hard rughy before I arrived here in December - it would be a serious disappointment to finish the season with nothing, but Sale



Stransky at Welford Road yesterday: Leicester's coach, Bob Dwyer, says he is one of the 'very few complete outside-halves anywhere'

liberty of politely advising An-

dre Markgraaff, then Springbok

coach, that he was making a pig's

ear of his half-back selection by

ignoring the golden boot from Newlands. Markgraaff has gone now, buried under the garbage

of last winter's deeply unpleas-ant racism scandal, but Carel du

Plessis, the new South African

top dog, seems likely to follow the lead of his predecessor. Certainly, Stransky has all but abandoned hope of facing the

"I knew when I agreed to sign

for Leicester I would probably be

Lions this summer.

showed in our league game on Saturday that they have a strong defence and a heap of spirit. They are nobody's pushovers.
"In fact, the top end of Eng-

lish club rugby in general is very competitive - more so than I imagined when I came over. It has a long way to go before it matches up to Super 12 but I'd say it is only a little below Currie Cup standard back home and the sheer volume of matches we've been forced to play, par-ticularly during April, makes a season here a serious undertaking. The weather doesn't help, either; it's pretty lousy as a rule."

In Stransky's opinion. Leices-

through fatigue, injury and deflected mental focus. People were constantly talking about the league and cup double and we began to hear too much. With seven games in 22 days, you need to be tuned into the match in front of you and even then, the mind and body can stand only so much. Players need a week to recover from the bumps and bangs and if we had a midweek game before the cup final, I for one would find it hard to take."

ter's season slipped off the rails

Only a year ago and well before he ever dreamed that Stransky might pitch up in the sacrificing my Springbok career east Midlands, Dwyer took the and there has been no contact

from Carel or anyone else regarding the Lions. Not a word. I don't think I have a chance of being picked, to be frank.

There is no political reason why that should be; I don't believe there is a conspiracy working against me because, as far as I know, the coach has a full say on who plays at Test level. If he wants to pick me, he will. But I can't see him selecting from outside South Africa; my heart wants me to believe the door is still open, but my mind tells me otherwise."

With Will Greenwood close to full fitness. Stransky will enjoy the novelty of operating with a firstchoice threequarter line at Twick-

enham this weekend. Dwyer's first cup final team list shows just how much the Leicester back division has changed since last season's bitter disappointment against Bath - only Stuart Potter and Niall Malone survive, the latter playing full-back rather than stand-off - and if the Tigers

them to foul up again. Leicester fr Sale, Twickenham, Santurday):
N Malone: C Joiner, S Potter, W Greenwood,
L Lloyd; J Stransiy, A Healey; G Rommree, R
Oockerli, D Gartorth, M Johnson (capil), M
Poole, J Wells, E Miller, N Back, Reptacements: S Hackney or R Underwood, R Liley,
A Kardoom, D West, D Richards, W Drake-Lee.

hoover up 80 per cent of the ball

for the second year running, it is

difficult to imagine a craftsman

of Stransky's stamp allowing

Eves at ease as **Bristol** suffer

CHRIS HEWETT

The long-suffering followers of Bristol Rugby Club will not find the thought remotely aimsing as they contemplate the potential horrors of tonight's excrudatingly edgy play-off first leg at Bedford, but one of the finest Memorial Grounders of them all is rather enjoying life amid the paramoia. Derek Eves, a record-breaking certain with the West Coun-

ing captain with the West Country giants between 1990 and 1995, believes his Coventry outfit, equipped as they are with five former Bristol first-teamers, can turn the league pecking order on its head by seeing off London Irish in the parallel play-off at Coundon Road. Eves is not a vindictive type, but he will allow himself the luxury of a quiet chuckle should the two clubs in his life pass each oth-

er going in opposite directions.
We have spent the whole sea son working towards this, we are looking for victory in both home and away matches and as far as tonight is concerned, we have no intention of giving ourselves a mountain to climb when we go to Irish for the return leg at the weekend," he said.

Bristol are so aware of the threat posed by Bedford at Gold-ington Road that they allowed their two Lions forwards, Mark Regan and Simon Shaw, extra time to recover from injuries sustained in England's Triple Crown match with Wales in March. Both will play, as will Martin Corry, the captain, who has also suffered fitness problems of late.

The home side, who finished fourth in Courage League Two to secure their promotion tilt against the ninth-placed side in the top flight, include the for-mer Welsh full-back Mike Rayer, the World Cup-winning Springbok No 8 Rudi Straeuli and a certain Martin Offiah.

Bath yesterday announced that Dan Lyle, their outstanding American No 8, had signed a new four-year contract. The US Eagles captain is firmly in the frame to lead them next season.

CHEPSTON

WETHERE

NDEPENDENT

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 27 APRIL

POS	NAME	TEAM F	POINTS
-	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSE MARTI	957
1	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOORMATS	927
3	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OASIS	924
.	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROVERS	922
5	MR BEN KENDALL	TURKEY'S TRIGGERS	921
5	MR BEN ANDREWS	BOOZER'S BATTIERS	913
<u> </u>	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	913
	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANURE EC	909
	MR ASHLEV BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	909
10	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F.C	907
))	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	SANDINO	906
12	MR G WHITE	WHITE CITY	903
13			901
13	MR F J GREAVES	ANONYMOUS ROVERS	
15	MR ADAM DEACON	ADAM ACES	901
	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY		900
16	HR LAN GROUT	SILK CITY	899
17	MR GARFIELD MACALEM	GARFIELD BOYS 2ND	898
17	MR D R MILLS	THE MUSHROOM LAYERS	E98
19	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	E96
19	MR S J GODWIN	NORVOOD	396
19	MR ANDREW BOLTON	ANDREW'S B TEAM	396
" —	MR O J JOHNSON	THE AWAY WINNERS	895
23	MR TERRY JONES	ANDROGEN UTD	893
24	MR ALEXANDA FEAST	THE ZOROSTRIAN ZENETIC ZYGRIE	692
25	MR A SWANNEY	DOG'S BRICK	891
<u> </u>	MR JOHN WANEING	4000 HOLES	891
27	MR PAUL HOOKER	NOBBLES BOYS	890
28	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	889
29	MR ANDY HOWARTH	T.D.F.C	888
30	MR I MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	847
30	MR MARK MEDILETON	SLIM & THE GO GO DANCING HUPPETS	887
30	MR ANDY LANS	IF ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	887
30	MR KARUN DHIR	THE RAIL MADRAS	687 ·
34	MR TONY AKINDALE	OLLIE VILLA	W86
34	MR JOHN COX	SOUTHFRIL #C	886
<u> </u>	MR PAUL HARRIS	CELL CITY	F86
<u> </u>	MR 5 J PERRY	THE GREAT ESCAPERS	885
₽ =	MR 5 DRAPER	PLATE RC	884
<u> </u>	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 2000	884
₽8	MR NEII ENTHWHISTLE	JERRY BANK ATHLETIC	884
[*	MR G LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	883
<u> </u>	MR MARK HAYDEN	TROWBRIDGE WANDERERS	983
<u> </u>	MR PAUL BROWN	ASHTON MOON PIG	883
<u> </u>	MR PETER SHERLOCK	LINCOLN ST. GILES	982
le e	MR MARTIN RENNICK	WILD ROYERS	892
<u>44</u>	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	882
44			-864
	MR LILLY	JEWELS REMIN'S GONE MISSING	
44			882
44	MR LILLY	JEWELS REMINT'S GONE MISSING	881 881
44 44 45	MR LILLY MR ROBERT PRINGLE	JEWELS REMINT'S GONE MISSING	882

YOUNG BOYS BARNSLEY

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY PHILIPS

Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 38 (Wk 38) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 28 April - Sunday 4 May inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 4 May.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table

oday we publish the latest results (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Inde- the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They in our Independent Fantasy Foot- pendent Fantasy Football managers and their ball game, supported by Philips En- teams for matches played between Saturday 17 Saver August - Sunday 27 April.

> Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from

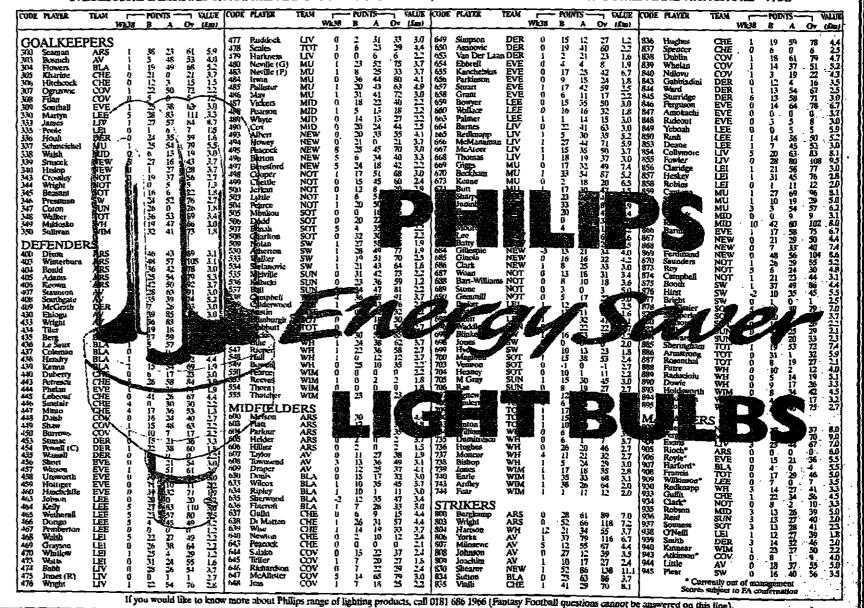
SCORING SYSTEM 4 points for a goal **=** 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender

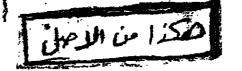
clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = 1 point when a player is selected and plays **= 1 point** for a winning goal **= 3 points** for a manager win, 1 point for a draw Lose I point for a yellow card Lose 3 points for a red card

will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday.

Terms and conditions as previously published PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice plus the final.





, Panama's mission to conquer Italy

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Chester

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F. F.OK.

Shergar, Henbit and Quest For Fame all emerged from the Chester Vase to win the Derby and there was another Classic tremor yesterday when Panama City was successful at the Roodeye. They are shaking in their boots at the Capannelle, where Peter Chapple-Hyam's colt is likely to appear next in the Italian Blue Riband.

If this victory was vindication for the decision to supplement the colt for Epsom it was also one that tested the heart chambers of his connections. Panama City was last turning into the straight and had to strain every sinew to force his head past State Fair. Peter Chapple-Hyam, his trainer, conceded that Rome rather than Epsom should be his next destination. Connoisseurs of the arts would probably agree with him.

We weren't planning to ride him like that because we wanted to go from a long way out. but John [Reid, the jockey] said he couldn't get out and had to sit and suffer," Chappie-Hyam said. "He had to use speed, which isn't his forte as he's more of a stayer."

Chapple-Hyam added that Revoque, his 2,000 Guineas runner-up, had worked pleasingly (for him) in a morning gallop at Manton and would

Chester - 4.15

Snow Princess 7-1 7-1 6-1 13-2

The Flying Phontons 12-1 10-1 9-1 12-1

Boacilie Court 7-2 10-3 10-3 10-3

Warning Real 50-1 50-1 50-1 40-1

Upper Mount Clair 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1

Each way a quarter the oots, places 1.2.3

C - Coral, H - Wellern Hill, L - Lachnoles, T - Total

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GOING: Good.

C H L T

141 121 141 121

31 103 72 103

141 121 121 121

<u>201 161 201 201</u>

331 331 331 401

71 71 71 81

HYPERION

2.25 Timidjar 2.55 Uttimate Smoothie 3.25 Don't

Light Up 3.55 Look in The Mirror 4.30 Savoy 5.00

GOING: GOOD.

Left-head, undulating course with run-in of 240 yels.

Course is on A466. Chepstow station (Cardiff – Gloucester fine)

Im. ADMISSION: Chub \$14; Tattersells £10 (OAPs \$5). GAR
PARK: Members \$6; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.25 BALMORAL JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds

8 64 JUEM DOLLY (Z1) J Mairs 10 9 S Cores - 8 declared -BETTHEC: 9-4 Spring Campaign, 11-4 Song Of The Sword, 3-1 Thothers, 8-1 Dokel Dolly, 12-1 Romantic Warrior, 14-1 Santelia Cape, 16 others.

2.55 BUCKINGHAM NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

3.25 C) £6,500 added 3m

/TIP-F DON'T LIGHT UP (80) Miss V Williams 11.11 10Mr R Tho

- 6 decisred -ETING: 5-2 Black Church, 7-2 Funcheou Sale, 9-2 Don't Light Up, 5-1 mentown 98, 7-1 Pinherley Place, 14-1 Michie Joe.

usz 1.60. wzmay 957 /10. 4 Gelsway, 3-1 Royal Ruler, 100-30 Ultimate Smoothie, 7-1 11888, 10-1 Mr Poppietsa, 20-1 others.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Wednesday.

41 51 51 112

Guineas before being commit-ted to the Derby. The colt's owner. Robert Sangster, has gone this way before, with The Minstrel, and certainly sees no reason to be petrified by Entrepreneur, even if the Guineas

winner is odds-on for Epsom. There was another entry for the chunky family scrapbook belonging to Entrepreneur's sire, Sadler 6 Wells, yesterday when two more of his sons fought out the previous race, Conon Falls,

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Perfect Paradigm (Chester, 2.10) NB: Canon Can (Chester, 3.10)

Pilsudski's half-brother, hanging on from Solo Mio. The winner's rider. Frankie Dettori, also sees Entrepreneur as an incredible force, if not an irresistible one. "I was very impressed by Entrepreneur and I'm just hoping one comes out of the pack, and my pack in purticular, to challenge him." the Italian said. "He still has to stay the extra half mile, but as far as I could see from the race and the replays he looked so laid back and he has such a fluid ac-

tion there is no problem. The next 10 days is vital as York in particular is always a very good Derby trial. But my

CHESTER

2.10: Unlike four of his rivals, FLIRTING AROUND has yet to win

but has shown potential, proved he acts on soft ground and represents the powerful Michael Stoute stable. Perfect Paradigm, who ran on strongly when successful at New-

castle in March, is the chief threat.

2.40: Chunito's wide draw looks a disadvantage after low numbers

dominated the 5f sprints here yesterday, SMART VENTURE, in stall 2, hails from a speedy family and represents a stable with a good record at this track. The Jack Berrytrained Only For Gold, in stall 1, looks the denser.

or (5.00)

S Curren

probably take in the Irish 2000 who was 10-11, in the Derby and he finished sixth, and Tenby was 4-5 when he lost so there is still a chance for anybody."

The opening contest, the Joseph Heler Lily Agnes Stakes, was more Catch No 2 than Catch 22 as Daunting Lady was pumped to the front from the rail draw by Pat Eddery before leading all the way. Richard Hannon, the trainer, often wins this contest and also the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot (Fly Baby, Lyric Pantasy and Risky have done it before) and now Daunting Lady will attempt to improve his record.

Eddery's likely Epsom ride is John Dunlop's Silver Patriarch. who was third in Sandown's Classic Trial and now goes for Lingfield's Derby audition on Saturday. He, too, gave a morsel of hope for those who have not got fancy numbers of an ante-post voucher about Entrepreneur. "He's definitely a top-class horse," he said. "I followed him all the way in the Guineas and he travelled so easily he could have won over five ffurlongs].

"His mother was a six furlong plus animal and he's by Sadler's Wells, who was a mile and a quarter horse [Eddery rode him] so he's not a certainty to get a mile and a half. But if he does we're all in trouble."

As Pat Eddery knows, the only certainty in racing is that Dad [Gianfranco] rode Wollow, people use clichés all the time.

3.10: BOWCLIFFE COURT

showed when winning at Warwick

last mouth that the move from

Barry Hills to Reg Akehurst has suited and can justify his short price to-day. The soft ground will be to the

gelding's advantage as will the tight course and nobody is better than

Akehurst in these big handicaps.

3.55 SANDRINGHAM SELLING THE SELECTION AND SELECTION OF S SANDRINGHAM SELLING HANDICAP HUR-

P-P02 IGHAZARI (USA) (65) R Botherton 9 10 4 _______ I Planey 002040 SAATI (26) R Beter 6 10 3 ______ V Stationy 8 50000 ROC ASE (85) G Davies 6 10 3 ._____ Michael Brownso (3) P14-056 PROVENCE (192) A Candi 10 10 0 _____ Mr J Goldstein (7) 154-P ASTROLARE (P31) J Bradey 5 10 0 _____ R Bealey 6

Paterbard 18 346600 CATWALKER (27) H Webb 6 10 0 _____Sophie Milechell (3)

BETTING 9-2 Fleet Cadet, 7-1 Star Performer, Killing Time, 8-1 Helio Me Man, Prize Minists, 10-1 Look in The Mirror, Strike-A-Pose, Kinzari, 12-

4.30 JORROCKS NOVICE HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 3m

111-U1 THAN TOO TOUCHY (11)(D) Y Dannel 10 12 0.

BETTINGS: events Plear Too Toucky, 5-4 Severy, 8-1 Archer, 15-1 Sultan's

5.00 SOUTH WEST AMATEUR RIDERS HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

0608 POLITICAL MANUATE (12) R Neon 10 7C McCommon (5) - 7 declared -et 8-4 Amering Sell, 7-4 Overssoon, 5-1 Regal Engle, 10-1 Irish Os-1 No Bruno, 20-1 Political Mondete, 33-1 Doctale Violage.

6.35 CHURCH FENTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added

BETTING: 7-2 Grossenov, 4-1 Country Store, 6-1 Zingflar, Selfinico, 7-1 Sotter Sythe Glass, 8-1 Star-Poliside, 10-1 Columb, Apachee Flower, 12-1 Icentolys.

MR BRUNO M Barnes 10 12.

. 025 OVERSMAN (47) J FixSeed 10 12..... O REGAL EAGLE (20) M Hammond 10 12...

110yds

3F6334 PRIZE MATCH (44) J Tuck 8 10 7 ...



Phantom's live chance

third time after an 18-furlong

Consider this. When Top

Cees won the Cup two years ago, he raced off a handicap

mark of 72. Back in third place,

racing off 90, was The Flying

gallop around Chester.

When Top Cees was led in to the winner's enclosure after the Chester Cup two years ago, the only sound was the gentle clipclon of his hooves, so convinced were the spectators that on his previous outing at Newmarket his true merit had been carefully concealed. We may discover this afternoon whether Lynda Ramsden, his trainer, has now been forgiven, since Top Cees will set off as one of the market leaders for the 1997 renewal, but it could be that while the form from 1995 will assist in finding

Phantom. Today, the respective marks are 87 and 78, an overall swing of election proportions, and yet while Top Cees is an pass the winning post for the 11-2 chance with the Tote this morning, The Flying Phantom, who is 27lb better off with Mrs Ramsden's horse for a fiveand-a-half length beating, is

UTTOXETER

5.50 Royal Segos 6.20 Mecado 6.50 The

Malakarma 7.20 Wise King 7.50 Formal Inval-

stressils \$10 (OAPs 27); Course \$3, CAE PARK: F LINKERED FIRST TIME: Oringed Venture (6

iles by Mrs June Storey from Releo, Borders.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Enery Bridge (6.50) won at Citekenham on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Boyst Jester (6.50) has been sent
223 miles by C Storey from Kelso, Borders, Wadding (7.50) aent 223

5.50 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOVICE HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m 2f

U1241P RYDGHS WELLS [23] Mis M Morris 10 12 0. Mr S Weller (7)

6.20 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN SELLING SICKE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G)

4 -4P040 DATS OF THUNDER (25) (D) Mrs S Odel 9 11.4 __ B Feston 5 P.OG.(4 BLOTOFT (28) (D) S Ogletgs 5 11.9 __ M.A Fleeton 6 4500P5 WORDSHITH (28) (D) J Charge 5 11.9 __ M. A Fleeton 7 3P0DP ORESIDOCO VENTURE (18) A Baley 6 10 6 __ Smy Lynas 8 5-POGS WORS VISION (PZS) W Jenis 5 10 0 __ __ M Brown (7) 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 __ __ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 __ __ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 __ __ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 __ __ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J Turter 5 10 0 ___ W Pry __ 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (72) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPOO ORLY A STOLK (73) J TURTER 5 10 O-OPO

AN.
BETTERE: 9-4 Biotost, 7-2 PlayAd Juliet, Wordsmith, 6-1 Days Of Transfer, 19-1 Brest, 12-1 Mecado, 20-1 Maggies Lad, Orinoco Venture, Kings Vision, 33-1 Only A Sloss.

...S Wares B

It is true that The Flying Phantom has not raced on the Flat for almost two years, but three runs over hurdles this winter, the most recent just 42 assignment.

"The owners were keen to have another crack at Chester so this has been the plan for some time," Phil Green, assisgelding's trainer, said yesterday. within reach.

available at 12-1.

"He was aimed pretty high earlier in his career, he's run in the Derby and the Ascot Gold Cup and taken on all sorts of good horses, and if you go through his form you can find some really good bits, most notably in the Chester Cup. He's a tough customer, we know he'll handle the

track and we're hoping he'll go very well." The best-backed runners in today's field are Bowcliffe Court already a winner this season after a winter move from Barry Hills to Reg Akehurst, and Henry Cecil's Canon Can. but neither appears particular-ly well-handicapped, and THE FLYING PHANTOM (nap

3.45) is an excellent each-way bet at the early odds.

will come home in front. Perfect Paradigm (next best 2.10) is still in the Derby, but while the premier Classic is a hopeless cause, the opening handicap, off a tant to Mark Tompkins, the mark of just 85, should be well

The main event on the undercard is the Cheshire Oaks, four of the five runners in which are still engaged in the original Oaks, but such is this contest's record as a Classic trial in recent years that it seems likely

days ago, should ensure that that Kyle Rhea (3.45), the only he is fit and ready for today's one without an Epsom entry, that Kyle Rhea (3.45), the only

Greg Wood savs an outsider has the form to lift the Chester Cup

the winner, it will be a different horse in the frame when they

Henry Cecil's Canon Can must be feared after beating Top Cees at Newbury, while Danjing is an in-teresting outsider who likes the twists and turns of Chester.

3.45: Henry Cecil, the trainer of 1,000 Guineas winner Sleepytime, clear-ly has a strong hand for this season's top fillies' races and saddles Kyle Rhea. This one will undoubtedly progress following her narrow victory over Jaunty Jig at Pontefract but she could find APACHE STAR hard to handle. Geoff Wragg's filly was fourth in Royal Amaretto's race at Newbury last month and that form reads well. The untested Desert Beauty is the dark horse here.

tation 8.20 Lottery Tici

6.50 BRADSHAW (BROS) OPEN HUNTERS CHASE (CLASS H)

£2,500 added 4m 2f. -11362 THE MALAKARIMA (7) (CD) MRss C Soundes 11 12 SNr B Pol-

6 24-U22 GRAWMLE GUEST (58) (BP) P Nicholis 11 12 0. Mr J Tizzard

(7) 7 -62323 PEANNE (11) (C) Miss J Womel 13 12 0 Miss J Womel (7)

GOING: Good to Soft.

Left-hand course, Ram-in of 170yd.

Course is SE of town near B5017. Untogeter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. ADMISSRON: Club £15 (OAPs £12);

-		and the state of t	
7	7.20	COUTTS & CO HANDICAP HDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m	
1		POURTH IN UNE (36) (D) M Willerson 9 12 0 W Marston	
2		DARAKSHAN (12) (D) Mass H Knight 5 11.8	
3		WISE KING (80) (D) J Old 7 11 4C Lienebyn	
4		HANDY LASS (18) (0) I Swith 8 11 (1 M & Filtremain)	

.50	LUCIA FARMER H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m4f
54U61F.	PLUNDER BAY (11) (CO) N Henderson 6 11 10M A Pilogocald
14/211 1920n (3)	FORMAL INVITATION (21) (D) D Micholson 8 11 10
215-60	ANDERMATT (20) (C) (D) J Markie 10 11 8 E Husband (3)

1	3.20	A W STOKES DRUMS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds
1		MR CHRISTIE (11) ID) Miss L Shidal 5 11 7 A Thombus
2	3/6432	BANDRY HELL LAD (89) C Mortock 7 11 0
3	213262	BEECHFIELD FLYER (37) W (2ay 6 11 0
4		BOTTLE BLACK (4) T Hand 10 11 0 P MicLoughlin
5		CYPRESS AVENUE (ST) Mrs V Ward 5 11 OMr R Thornton (3)
5	B-2UP5	LUTTERY TICKET (15) T George 8 11 0
7	OP.	MOOR HALL PRINCE (414) N Babbase 7 11 0 B Featon
•		SCALE DOWN (5) J Pickering 8 11 0
•	0/06	SEMEY (18) J McConnochie 8 11 0S Wynne
10	0P044/	STEEL CHEMES (1103) B Cambridge 8 11 0
1	PPOPS/	THREE JAYS (753) D Thom 10 11 0
12		TREMESSIDE MAJOR C Smith 5 11 0
13	13/P	UPHAM SURPRISE (97) J Old 9 11 0
14	221/54	KING'S RAINBOW (38) (DA Mis D Haine 8 10 9
5	40UP0	PUSH ON POLLY (27) J Paries 7 10 9 Supple
		- 15 declared -
Œ	TING: 11-4	Banny HB Lad, 9-2 Beechticki Flyer, 11-2 Mr Christie, 13-

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1	146502	MR CHRISTIE (11) [D) Miss L Shidal 5 11 7
2	3/6432	BANON HELL LAD (889 C Mortock 7 11 0
3	213262	BEECHFIELD FLYER (37) W Cay 6 11 0
4		BOTTLE BLACK (4) T Hand 10 11 0
5		CYPRESS (NYEMBE (ST) Mrs V Word 5 11 ONLy R Thornton (S)
6		LUTTERY TICKET (13) T George 8 11 0
7		MOOR HALL PRINCE (414) N Babbade 7 11 0 B Feeton
ė		SCALE DOWN (5) J Polering 8 11 0
9	0/06	SEMEY (18) J McConnochie 8 11 0
10	0P044/	STEEL CHEMES (1103) B Cambridge 8 11 0 Bary Lyons
11	PPOPS/	THREE JKYS (758) D Thom 10 11 0K Gaule
12		TREMESIDE MAJOR C Smith 5 11 0 M Ranger
13	13/P	UPHAM SURPRISE (97) J Old 9 11 0
14	221/54	KING'S RANGOW (38) (D) Mis D Haine S 10 9 F Titley
15	40UP0	PUSH ON POLLY (27) J Paries 7 10 9 Supple
		- 15 declared -
BET	ING: 11-4	Banny Hill Lad, 9-2 Beechfield Flyer, 11-2 Mr Christie, 13-
2 C ₇	press And	sme, 10-1 Lottery Ticket, 12-1 King's Reinbow, 16 others.
	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

TETERS. HYPERION 6.05 Regal Eagle 6.35 Mister Oddy 7.05 Beck And Call 7.35 Nicholas Plant 8.05 Colonel in Chief 8.35 Teejay N'Aitch

GOING: Good to soft.

Elei-lund oval circuit. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill.

Elei-lund oval circuit. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill.

Gourse is NE of town on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1.

ADMISSION: Club S12 (accompanied under-16s free); Tanarsalis

S8; Course S2 (OAPS S1) (cars, including up to 4 admits S8). CAR

PARK: Pres.

BLINERERO PIRST TIME: Praise Be (7.05).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

SLIVERED FIRST TIME: FIRST DAYS, NOR.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS, NOR.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNINERS: Nicholas Plant (7.35) and Tecloy-lay? Akrd (8.35) have been sent 211 miles by J S Goldie from Up-

6.05 WASHDALE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m OZO12 AMAZING SAE (11) Miss M Milism 11.5 ____ E Cultaghan OD DOUBLE VERTICE [37] M Crapmen 10.12 _____ files RESH OASIS (F28) B Retwell 10.12 _____ B Gratian

3 139423 MSSER ODDY (S) (D) J Nrg 11 11 6 _______ T J Merphy
4 318753 POLITICAL TOWER (13) (CD) R Nizon 10 11 4 _____ B Storey
- 4 declared
BETTING 5-4 Cambrine Challenge, 5-2 Mister Oddy, 3-1 Leotard, 7-1 Po-7.05 RACING CHANNEL NOVICE STATE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 4f 110yds

EP1504 80STON MAN (20) R Woodhouse 5 11 6

3P-030 RIVEAUX (29) & Richards 7 11 0 _______P Cambery
2164 SILERE GLEST (25) M Harrmond 4 11 0 ______ R Gardity
2-U3FD TWEEDSWOOD (36) P Benument 7 11 0 ______ R Supple
R09040 DRDDY RYMER (55) Ms 5 Shigh 7 10 9 _____ R Guest — 12 dectared — BETTING: 5-2 China ling, 5-1 Rivesux, 6-1 Sisset Gaest, 8-1 Boston Man, Bock And Call, Tweedswood, 14-1 Diddy Rymer, 18-1 others.

7.35 HEADINGLEY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f

234361 DESTRI D'ESTRUVAL (FR) (19) (D) D Nicholson 6 11 10 -16121 BRIGHTER SHADE (37) (CD) Mrs M Revoley 7 10 6 _P Nives

020224 DEEP DECISION (14) (CD) P Cheestrough 11 10 0 .A S Smith ~ 5 daçbıyıd – Minimum weight: 10st. True handcap weights: Nicholae Plant 9st 11lb,Deep Decision 957 2000. IETTERE: 5-4 Destito d'Estruval, 2-1 Brighter Shade, 7-1 Golden Hello, 8-1 Michelas Plant, 10-1 Deep Decicion.

8.05 CATTAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000

DRAGONS BAY Mas M Raveley 8 11 2... STACES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

BETTING: 4-6 Colonel in Chief, 7-1 Karenastine, Milnila, Tramp, 12-1 Drag ons Bay, 14-1 Strongalong, 100-1 Quitali Grossett.

8.35 HUNSINGORE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m

212136 SARMATIAN (USA) (LA) (D) M Hermond 6 12 0 R Gentley
-00006 POX SPARROW (SB) (D) N Trivier 7 10 8 R Dunwoody B
F50233 HIGHLAND WAY (23) (D) M lockurer 9 10 7C McConneck (7)
F4U211 TEEMYTRATCH (12) (D) | F Globe 5 10 3 5 Toylor (5)
033(D) GOING PUBLIC (13) (20) P Cheestrough 10 10 0 ... A S Smith 150513 XIERCHEN (18) (CD) C Grant 6 10 0 ... - 6 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handsep weights: Going Public 9st 13th, Kierchem

BETTING: 5-4 Tecjay/WAltch, 3-1 Highland Way, 6-1 Samuellan, 8-1 Fox

* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTABLES MESULTS 971 <u>981</u> 972 <u>982</u> 973 <u>983</u> 974 <u>984</u> CHEPSTOW_ VETHERBY (E)

0891 261 970

ladir cost litto per salvate. T.L.S. plc, Scretture St 812A 47)

2.10: 1. DAUNTING LADY (Pex Eddey) 10-11 fav, 2. Heavenly Abstone 12-1; 3. KB-cora 4-1. 8 ran. 5, 2. (R Hannon, East Everleus). Totas £1.80; £1.20, £3.30, £1.30. Dual Forecast: £15.10. Computer Note Forecast: £13.72. ION FALLS (L Dettori) 9-2; 2. Selo Mio 4-1; 3. Montfort 20-1; 10 ran. 11-4 fav Gulf Harbour (6th), 174, 374, U Gos-den, Nowmarker). Totes: £3.80; £1.40, £1.40, £3.70, DF: £5.60, CSF, £19.02. The:

3.10: 1. PANAMA CITY U Reid) 6-5 fav. 2. Ivan Lois 5-1; 3. State Feb 8-1 5 ren. hd, hd. (P Chapple-Hyam, Marxon). Tete: £1.90; £1.50, £1.80. DF: £4.40. CSF:

Parket Comments of the Comment

3.40: 1. BREAK THE RULES (K Datter) 9 2 fav; 2. Kısala Lipis 11-1; 3. Northern Fan 50-1; 4. Rockforce 8-1, 16 ran. nk, 1½. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £5.10: £1.40, £2.80, £14.40, £2.40. Dual Forecast: £43.70. Computer Straight Forecast: \$50.80. Tricast: £2,091.80. Tho: £1,108.20. Non Run-

4.10: 1. GREAT CHILD (KFallon) 9-2 fav. 2. Jeffrey Anotherred 16-1; 3. Bollin Ter-ry 6-1; 4. I Can't Remember 14-1. 16 ran. 14. nk. (M Stoute, Newmarket). Tota: £6.50; £1.90, £6.00, £1.90, £2.50. DF: £131.40. Computer Streight Forecast; £82.89. Tricost: £334.29. Tric: £315.60. 4.40: 1. DANCETHENIGHTAWAY (Dane O'Ned) 10-1; 2. Mangus 7-1; 3. Divide And

ner: Pater Noster. After a stewards' inquiry,

Rule 25-1, 14 rap, 2-1 far Sabina (4th), 3. 2%. (B Meehan, Lambourn). Total £10.30; £2.50, £2.20, £9.90. DF: £25.20. Computer Streight Forecast: 580.11. Tricest: £1,072.90. Jackpot: £7,763.80 (part won, pool of £8:747,99 carried forward to Chester this af-

Placeant: £192.50. Ouadatt: £63.20.

Place 5: £214.98. Place 5: £160.63.

RACING RESULTS

2.25: 1. ALPRIGNY (S Sanders) 9-2; 2. Fiveo'clock Stratow 8-11 fav; 3. Chrysalis 4-1. 6 ran. 31/4, hd. (S Dow, Epsom). Total £9.90; £8.30, £1.10. Dual Forecast: £3.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £7.51.

2.55: 1. GOOD NEWS (R Pertram) 10-1: 2. Coing Green 10-1; 3. Sloutrouge 94 fav. 9 ran. 2, 1. (M Madgwick, Dermead). Tota: £15.40; £3.00, £2.10, £1.40. Dual Foresat: £74.00. Computer Straight Foresast: £90.09. Trio; £96.40. 3.25: 1. APOLLO RED (Candy Morris) 9-

2 fev; 2. Justinianas 13-2; 3. Twin Creeks 11-2; 4. Rocky Waters 9-1, 17 rep. 17. %, (G.L. Moore, Brighton). Tota: £6.10; £1.10, £2.50, £2.20, £2.10. Dust Forecast: £16.10. Computer Streight Forecast: £30.99. Yecast: £163.61. Tota Trio: £25.40. 3.55: 1. MAZIJREK (Paul Eddery) 9-2; 2. Prince Danzig 9-4 tavounte; 3. Democratice Hall 4-1. 9 ran. 5, 3. (M Pipe, Weilington).

Tota: wan £5.10; places £2.70, £1.10, £2.30. Dual Forecast: £8.10. Computer

Straight Forecast: £14,92. Thoast: £42,17. 4.25: 1. STELLAR LINE (D Griffots) 7-4

tax; 2. Law Denoer 9-2; 3. Roman Reel 100-30. 11 ran. 13, hd. (D Elsworth, Whitcombe). Tota: £2.20; £1.40, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £5.00. CSF: £8.45. Trio: £6.50, Wirvier sold for 8,000 guineas to M Polgaze.
4.55: 1. COLLEGE NOGHT (M Henry 7-1:

2. Marrengo 4-1 It fev; 3. Ed's Folly 10-1. 14 ram. 4-1 It fev Chones Song. 14, 1%, (8 Williams, Newmorket). Tota: £12.40; £2.60. £1.30, £5.50. DF: £15.30. CSF: £39.44. Tilcast: £288.21. Tric: £232.80 (part won, nool of £163.98 carried forward to Chester 3,10 today). Non Runner: Dusson Boy. Placecot: £60.00, Ocardoot: £15.00.

Place 5: £13.73. Place 5: £10.23.

HYPERION 3.45 APACHE STAR (NAP) 2.40 Smart Venture 4.15 Bishops Court (nb) 4.45 Midyan Queen 3.10 Bowcliffe Court

GOING: Soft.

STALLS: In 2f - stands side; rest. - holde.

STALLS: In 2f - stands side; rest. - holde.

STALLS: In 2f - stands side; rest. - holde.

STALLS: In 2f - stands side; rest. - holde.

E DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.

Len-hand, right, circular course. Not suitable for long-striding horses.

Course is near centre of city on A548 Chener General station Im. ADMOSSION: County Enclosure sold out; Tantersalls 512; Dee Stand 54; Course E2. CAR PARE: S2.

E LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Stonte - 15 winners from 67 runners gives a success ratio of 22.4% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 51.29; J Berry - 18 winners, 105 runners, 14.5%, -223.25; E Hannon - 12 winners, 59 runners, 20.3%, +1.56; A Bedley - 11 winners, 136 runners, 8.136, -5.75.92.

E LEADING JOCKETS: Pat Eddery - 15 winners, 67 rides, 22.4%, -5.4.42; W E Swinbern - 13 winners, 48 rides, 27.1%, +511.75; E Darley - 12 winners, 67 rides, 19.7%, +511.67; L Dettori - 12 winners, 67 rides, 17.9%, -511.68.

BLINKINGED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Endysti (2.10) has been sent 225 oldes by J L Demlop from Annadel, W Susser; Hype Energy (4.15) has been sent 205 rules by G Lews from Headey, Sarrey; Bowellife Court (3.10) sent 200 rules by R Akrebara from Epsom, Sarrey.

2.10 CHESHIRE REGIMENT HANDICAP (CLASS C) C4 | Refines | Refi

2.40 NWS BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) C4 £10,000 added 2YO 57 6yds CRUMETO (19) (in Touch Roong Cutt) P Chapple-Hyern 8 11

DIJUGENCE (the Bue Cup Group) P Cole 8 11

ESTOPPED (Mrs S & Clauses) M Charmon 8 11

ESTOPPED (Mrs S & Clauses) M Charmon 8 11

FAME TOMER (bit Mehrman of H-Shuabin R Harmon 8 11

SOLLY ON Charmon C. Missey) A Balay 8 11

MENHAMREEN (4) (EIF) (bit Paul Green (Puyant)) P Barrs 8 11

ONLY FOR GOLD (bit John Milner & Mr Septien Milner) Beny 8 11

SMARE VENTURE (Mrs D) Smarty R Hollinsheed B 11

— 8 Hockman

- 8 declared -EXTEMS: 7-4 Diagnose, 7-2 Chapito, 5-1 Only For Gold, 6-1 Flame Tower, 13-2 Estopped, 7-1 Rectifiers (** Uniquence, f. S. Sant Vendame. Newhangton, 14-1, Kollby, S.mart Vendame. 1998: Vesen 2 8 11 Pat Endery 5-6 fav (M Chennon) desam (8) 9 ran connect settings

FORM CUIDE

ESTOPPED is not certain to handle soft gold, but he looks a good sort bearing in mind Its trainer, Mick Channon, won this race last year with Vasan. Jack Beny's newcomers are hitting top form and Only For Gold retes a threat. He's an early foel by Presidium, who was responsible for recent Follosstone juvenile debut winner Lasham (firm ground). Chanito will have a following with a run under his belt. Fifth to Mijana ax Newbury when ast lengths behind subsequent source Cripps, Chunto is a furny one for Peter Chappiethyam to train being a helf-brother to the selling plater Bedazzie. In a race such as this it would be the norm to go along with Part Cole, but it is hard to be sure about Diligence on the dround with fact-former severator Diliment as the tim. Schward kernon's warefater Diliment as the tim. Schward kernon's warefater on the ground with fast-ground speedster Daum as his sire. Richard Hannon's youngsten can never be dismissed (he had another debut wanter on Monday) and Flarme Tower k

3	10	TOTE CHESTER CUP (HANDICA £50,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m ;	IP) (CLASS B)
1		OLD ROUVEL (USA) (39) (Mrs R D Cowell) D Must	_
2		SHOW PRINCESS (176) (Lord Weinstock) Lord Hz	
3		CANON CAN (USA) (19) (Caron (Angle) O A Ltd)	
4		TOP CEES (19) (CD) (Mr R E Sangstar) Mrs. J Ram	
5	/3200-	DANCENIS (134) (Kright Hands Permership) M Pipe	588 TOulou 4B
6		THALIANAH (25) (Mr W Chiford) B Smart 5 8 4	
Ť	60326/	THE FLYING PHANTON (J42) (PH Betts Ltd) M To	moline 682. Date Othern 7
ġ		BOWCLIFFE COURT (25) (Mr A D Spence) R Alesh	
ĕ		MAZAMET (USA) (111) (Mr Frank Clarke) O O'Neil	
10		WARNING REEF (15) (Valley Pacifocks Record Un	
ű		ETTEREY PARK (1.2) Our & May G Middlebrook) M	
12		UPPER MOUNT CLAIR (5) (BF) (Mr C E Britism) C	

1996: Ment 4 7 10 J Quinn 11-2 (P Cole) draw FOI

FORM GUIDE

The ground is right for Bowcliffe Court whereas we have to take a stab at CANON CAN'S ability to cope with the conditions. The form lines involving Orchestra Stall puts the pair on the same rung of the ladder at today's weights, but Canon Can is well worth the bet with The lass on his back rafer the recent Newtoury win from 150 Ceas. Imming Quinn must have a glood idee of the winner having ridden Canon Can Into third in the Casarewitch and the reguler partner of Bowcliffe Court. Canon Can looked as glood as ever at Newtoury when staying on too strongly for Top Ceas, and looks capable of progressing enough to make up for the stable's somewhat unfucly run with Corradin last year. Top Ceas was seened down when held at Newton and meets Canon Can on All her, it seems for the condition on All her, it arens for the condition on the first interest or the condition on the first interest or the condition of t essed down when held at Newbury and meets Canon Can on 4lb be-- ar terms for the three-length besting. The run has gist to improve him, he won this race two years ago and may now need some dig in the ground after finding conditions too fast 12 months ego. Bowcliffe Court must have been in good form to win on the fast ground at Warwick lest month. He can do even better with this cut and his backend run at Haydock has been seriously boosted by the wins of Sweeness Herself and Gorberts Stall. The Flying Phenateria stall from hundling and he was third to Top Cess in the race two years ago. The ground should suit him and a 23b put for the five-length beening by Top Cess gives him a good chance if some of the old ability has been retained. Etbertly Park won as Sandown after he was collared by Bowcliffe Court at Warwick. He is only 2lb better off and may not be suited by this soft ground. Dengling was a long way befund Canon Can in the Casarewitch frough he finished ascound to Sas Victor in this last year. Snow Princess won first time top last sesson and loves the mud, though the weight sets her a task this time, and Olid Rourvel is also asked a question under 9st 10th.

Selection: CANON CAN esed down when held at Newbury and meets Canon Can on 4lb being terms for the 3.45 SHADWELL STUD CHESHIRE OAKS (LISTED) (CLASS A) £35,000 added 3YO 1m 3f 79yds

21-4 APACHE STAR (15) (Mr A E Oppennemer) G Wrage 8 9 ... O- DESERT BEAUTY (243) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 8 9 ... ETIBLE: 2-1 Ryle Rhea, 3-1 Desert Beauty, 100-30 Apuche Star, 5-1 Dundel, 9-1 Grapevine. 1990; Tout A Coup 3 8 9 M J Khane 3-1 (G Cuseck) drawn (G) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE.

DUNDIEL can surprise her four rivels now she gists a trip after juvenule runs over six and seven furiongs. She's from the family of High Howk and in The Wings so this journey is yeared to bring out the best in her. Not that she was without ability at two, making a pleasing start at Pontefract and then showing up well at Goodwood until checked or room in Quiraeline's race. Kyle Rhea is from a family that does well in their second sor room in quincains is so.e. Now kneed is from a termy that coos well in their season so she's going to be herd to beat eapocaally with a winning run at Ponce der her belt. Her racing style gives hope she can do even better with some cut day's longer trip is also smech, in her favour, Apacha Star, winner of a backend in the soft at Lungfield, looked in need of the run behind Royal Amaretia at New days ago and will be much sharper loday. Desert Beauty showed promise on juvenile start at Kempton and is from an in-form stable.

Selection:

4.15 ROODEYE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000 added 3YO 6f 18yds Penalty Value £11,178

BETTIME: 2-1 Binkops Court, 9-2 John Ennes, 6-1 Song Mist, 8-1 Moonshiner, 10-1 Might Flight, Big Ben, Double-O, Suite Factors, 12-1 Nant Y Gamer, Double-J, 18-1 Big Ben, 20-1 others. 1996: Princely Sound 3 8 5 M Person 11-1 (M Bell) drawn (10) 12 can

This soon furiong, coupled with the sower surface, will help Bishops Court, who had a bad draw when third to the better-positioned per Hetpe and Sabirus at Sandown (5) 1.1 bad draw when third to the better-positioned per Hattibb and Sabina at Sandown (50) 11 days ago, He was just as promising on his esappearance at Doncaster when third to Brutial Partiasy; and will now be in top condition for today's tests. Bishops Court is Basky to be at cramped odds and he'll need to leasp out of trouble from stall ask before making his nur. Jack Berry's Heart Y Gener and Suita Bactors will ensure a feat pace, but the one to watch now he's back sprinting is NOONSHINER, who made the useful Wolf Mountain sweat over this trip at York less October. Night Flight came from behind to bear older rivels at Portaffact lest week, but the 7th higher mark and outside draw are off-putting. Michael Bell's horses are running a bit better so John Essens is a likely each-way shot, and this is more Doebte-O's ground after the fast at Ripon. Selection: MOONSHINER

4.45 EVELYN DELVES BROUGHTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 added 370 7f fillies Penalty Value £7,158

__D Webt 11 B MYSTIQUE AIR (2017) (Mr T A Scothern) E Waymes 8 11.... RADIANCY (Mr J W Rowles) J Leigh 8 11..... ا محقق لــ A SCHITTE LADY (19) Sespire Ricing B Hills 8 11

5 SWEET PATOOPE (15) DAte B Newton B Harbury 8 11

4 WOODBECK (5) DATE B Heart 8 11

OO-4 VARRIT EL SULSKN (15) (15 D Imports Int)-B McMarbon 8 11.

BETTING: 5-2 Scentre Ludy. 3-1 Bear's Ruby, 9-2 Mystery HII, 6-1 Blushing Decent, 7-1 Wood-beck, 10-1 Yeldel El Sultan, 12-1 Sweet Potospie, 15-1 Mystique Air, 20-1 officers. 1998: Aunty Jane 3 8 11 Pat Eddery 2-1 fay (1 Hely drawn (4) 12 mm

REA'S RUSY, sporting the Entrepreneur colours, could take some beating on her first star ble's RNBY, storing the implication country of the season. She certainly knows more about the game than Sceptre Lady and Mystery Hill, and her sire Felry King throws up plently of mucliovers. Bee's Ruby encountered similar conditions to the at Haydock less October when third to the useful colls Poteen and Chettess and she finished the season with a good second of the Analy at Lecester on the Sat. A big danger has to be Sceptre Lady, who is following the same path as last year's winner Aunty Jane having contested a newcomers' race at Newbury. Selection: BEA'S RUBY

Hodgson's choice limited to face unsung Schalke

WYN GRIFFITHS

Roy Hodgson is in no doubt as to the magnitude of the task facing his accomplished Internazionale side when faced with contrasting style of the German club Schalke in tonight's Uefa Cup final first

leg. Hodgson, the Englishman who will leave Milan for Blackburn at the end of this season, was not resorting to pre-match platitudes in his estimation of the opposition.

German players are powerful and strong, and they nev-er give up," Hodgson said. They're one of the best supported clubs in the Bundesliga and it will be a tough game for

"Only a fool underestimates his opponent and only a fool takes comfort from past results.

Ganz, In-Maurizio

Ten Major League Soccer players have asked a US federal judge

to issue an order declaring the

transfer rules of Fifa, the gov-

erning body of international football, illegal in the United States. The 10 players, led by lain Fraser and Paul Caligiuri, filed

a suit against MLS on Feb. 14,

accusing the second-year Amer-

ican league of violating American antitrust laws and illegally

holding down salaries. They ac-

cused Fifa of participating in a conspiracy to violate US an-

On December 15, 1995, the

European Court of Justice de-

clared in the Jean-Marc Bosman

case that the transfer rules were

illegal in the 15-nation European

Union. More than 15 months lat-

er. Fifa announced on March 26

that it had amended its rules to comply with the decision and that

players could transfer between

teams within the European

Union without transfer fees at the

end of their contracts. The play-

ers on Monday asked US District

Judge Mark L. Wolf on Monday

to issue a summary judgment pre-venting Fifa's transfer rules from

being applied in the United

A ruling on the request is not

expected for several months at

the earliest, "The Fraser litiga-

tion was brought on behalf of all

Major League Soccer players to

strike down those agreements

which have eliminated competi-

tion for professional soccer play-ers in the United States," said

John Kerr Snr. a spokesman for

the players. "The players feel

eight goals, is likewise wary of the unsung Germans. Ganz said he was prepared to face "a real battle, against a team which is athletically very strong".

With one eye fixed on next season, the 28-year-old Italian forward added: "The result of the final is very important for many Inter players as it may mean an extension of the contract for the next season."

Rarely have two clubs with such differing backgrounds met in a European final. Internazionale boast a history of international success while their German rivals have never won a European trophy. Even Schalke's last domestic triumph was back in 1972 when they won

the German cup. The two legs will be played in cities which are also vividly different. Gelsenkirchen, an industrial city in the Ruhr which has been hit hard by unemployment in recent years, will stage the first leg before the second game in one of Europe's in the Uefa Cup this season with ern Italy in two weeks' time.

ternazionale's leading scorer most fashionable cities in north-**US** challenge to transfer system

lawful." A trial on the antitrust

claims is not expected until 1998

"It is to be regretted that this

is to be bought before a court

which is against the principles of Fifa," said Keith Cooper,

spokesman for Fifa. "It is re-

prettable that this is at a time

when soccer on the upswing in

the United States and the US

team is doing well in qualifica-

tion for the World Cup. It would

he a shame if some of that im-

petus was lost by a lengthy legal

case which can have a debilitat-

ing effect as we've seen in Eu-

day they had found no evidence

to back up a controversial tele-

vision report that national play-

ers cavorted with prostitutes at

a hotel before an international

game. The Portuguese federation

said the allegations were "un-

founded" and had "tarnished the

honour of the national team."

"We will start legal proceedings

against the television channel for

the damage it has caused to the

image of Portuguese soccer at

home and abroad," federation

president Gilberto Madail told

a news conference. The SIC

television channel alleged last Fri-

day that five prostitutes had

at the earliest.

rope.

Portu

quite confident that the United States court will follow the lead of Bosman and swiftly rule that the Fifa transfer fee system is unfor the rest of the season.

"Finals are absolutely the top games for any player. We are total outsiders," said the captain. Olaf Thon, who reached the European Cup semi-finals three times with Bayern. "But, if we manage to turn the tables, that would be the greatest thing Schalke's ever done.'

Hodgson has called up two youth team players in the 18-year defender Tiziano Polenghi and 19-year-old midfielder Sergio D'Autilia, because of the suspensions and injuries. Ganz and the utility player Sal-

Ciriaco Sforza is troubled by a long-term, leg injury. However, given the lack of alternatives, they are all expected to play. "Physically, we're not in great

This is the first of the two Gerfinal is between Paris St-Germain and Barcelona on 14 May

Schalike (probable): Lehmenn; Thon, De Kock, Linke, Latel, Müller, Nernec, Bueskans, Anderbruegge, Wilmots, Maz. Internazionale (probable) Pagluca: Bergo-mi, Galarue, Paganin, Pistone, Zaneth, Sforza, Fresi, Winter, Gariz, Zamorano. joined the national squad at a hotel near Lisbon three days before of a European Championship qualifying game against Ireland in November 1995.

in Rotterdam.

The teams themselves are a contrast in composition. The Italian club - missing the suspended Jocelyn Angioma, Paul Ince and Your Djorkaeff for the first leg - has an abundance of playing riches.

Schalke, on the other hand, have few leading players who are known internationally apart from their midfielder-cumlibero Olaf Thon, a former World Cup player, and the Czechs Jiri Nemec and Radoslav Latal.

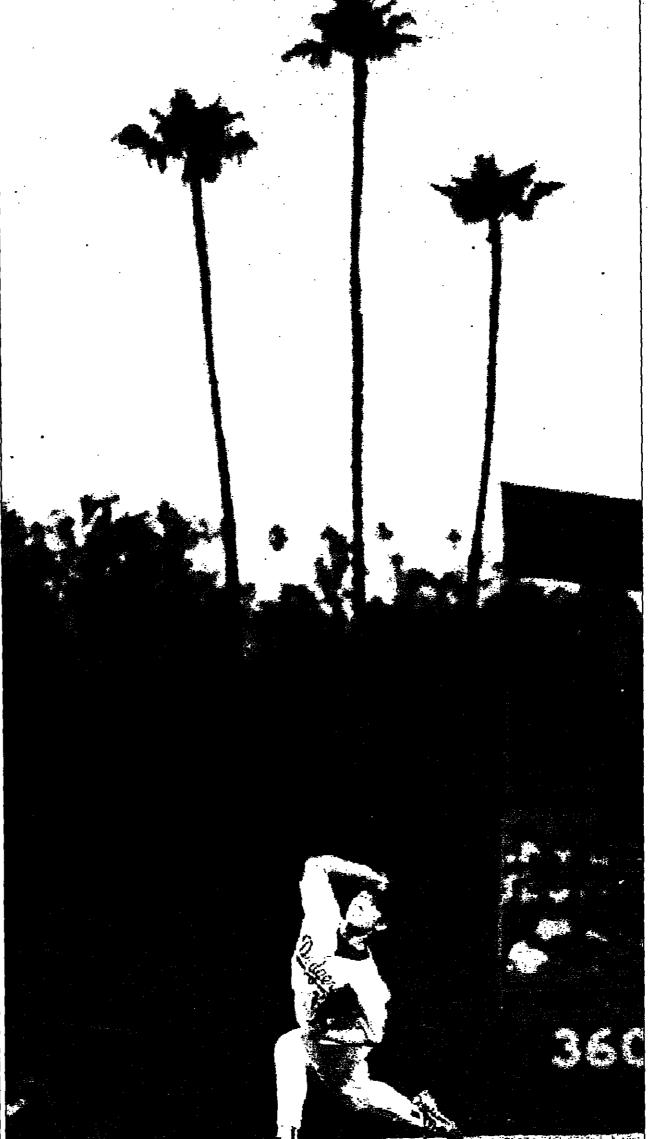
Six of the last eight Uefa Cups have been won by Italian clubs and Internazionale will be seeking to win the Cup for the third time after successes in 1991 and 1994. But just as the Germans are unheralded they equally capable of causing an upset. One of the biggest factors in Schalke's favour in Gelsenkirchen's Parkstadion will be their support.

Schalke were a major force in German football during a period up to and including the Second World War, winning the championship six times between 1934 and 1942. But although their last German title came in 1958, they still have a fanatical following around the country, with a reputation for emotional and vocal support. Even when the club was relegated three times during the 1980s the club kept its following.

Huub Stevens, the Schalke coach, is hoping to have a fully fit squad, apart from the Dutch striker Youri Mulder, who is out

vatore Fresi are suffering from condition and pride and willinguess to sacrifice ourselves will

count for a lot against a physically tough side," Ganz said. man-Italian final confrontations. Juventus and Borussia Dortmund meet in the Champions' Cup final in Munich on 28 May. The Cup-Winners' Cup



Three palms and you're out: Hideo Nomo, the Dodgers pitcher, in action against the Cincinnati Reds in the third inning of the home side's 3-1 victory in Los Angeles on Monday

Photograph: Sam Mircovich/Reuter

Clemens starting to repay **Blue Jays**

Basebali

It is beginning to look as if 34year-old Roger Clemens is worth the huge free agent contract he signed to join the Roronto Blue Jays in the off-season.

Clemens fired his second complete game of the young seasonto lead Toronto to a 3-1 win over the Detroit Tigers and raise his record to 5-0 on Monday.

Clemens, who signed a three-year, \$24.75m (£15.5m) contract. to leave Boston after 13 years as the ace of the Red Sox staff. allowed one run and five hits. He did not issue a walk and struck out 10 to lower his league-leading ERA to 1.58 with the 103rd complete game of his career.

Carlos Garcia stroked a tworun double in the fifth inning to give Clemens all the support he needed. "I'm used to ftight games), in Boston I had a ton of nailbiters," Clemens said. "I'm not worried about my career wins and losses. I'm worried about the play-offs and the World Series.

The Tigers pushed across their only run in the second on Melvin Nieves' RBI triple: The Jays added an insurance run in: the eighth when Otis Nixon stole third and scored on Joe Carter's sacrifice fly.
Omar Olivares (1-2) gave.

up three runs and seven hitsover seven and one third innings to take the loss. The Tigers have scored a total of just six runs for, Olivares in his last four starts.

In Los Angeles, Billy Ashley. broke a sixth-inning tie with a two-run homer and Hideo Nomo took a four-hitter into the ninth as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Cincinnati-Reds. Nomo (4-2) allowed six hits in eight-plus innings, improving to 4-0 against the Reds. He struck out six and walked none. Cincinnati's run came. on Willie Greene's RBI single. in the fifth. Mark Guthrie got the first out of the ninth, and Todd Worrell retired Terry Pendleton and Jeff Branson for his ninth save.

With the score 1-1 in the sixth, Greene booted Todd' Zeile's lead-off grounder to. third for an error and Ashley hit. his first homer of the season. The drive came off Hector Carrasco (1-1), who relieved Kent-Mercker after five innines.

In Boston, Kevin A pitched a five-hitter and Jay Bell homered and drove in two runs, as the Kansas Royals blanked the Red Sox 2-0. Appier (4-1) walked one and struck out seven for his league-leading third complete game of the season and 10th career shut-out. He allowed only, one runner past first base. "Ap-; pier right now is better than he's ever been, said the Kansas City, manager, Bob Boone.

ALTEE?

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Chris Hammond (1-1) pitched eight innings, allowing two runs and seven hits with three walks and nine strikeouts. In Baltimore, Tim Salmon homered and drove in four and Eddie Murray highlighted a four-run first with a two-run sin-

gle as the Anaheim Angels

beat the Orioles 7-2.

Lehmann feasts on woeful Warwickshire

Cricket

States.

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Edgbaston Warwickshire 234 Yorkshire 237-5 Yorkshire win by five wickets

The departure of Dermot Reeve from Edgbaston can never have been more sharply underlined than it was yesterday when Yorkshire were allowed to make almost unimpeded progress to a likely place in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

In case this seems ungenerous to Yorkshire, it must be said that through Darren Lehmann and Michael Vaughan they made the most of the chances they were given. Lehmann's blustering strokeplay showed the way while Vaughan's adhesiveness made sure there was no slip-up.

But Warwickshire were awful. even allowing for the biting wind which blew round Edgbaston and for the fact that the ball did not swing as it had on Monday. The bowling was all over the place, the fielding was untidy, the catching bad and bad Reeve been in charge, smoke would have been coming out of

Warwickshire's cricket was never as ill-disciplined under his captaincy and now there seemed to be precious little cohesion to the side. They were given an excellent start to the day, too, when David Byas was bowled by Dougle Brown, choosing the wrong ball to pull

in the morning's second over. Lehmann, looking a little bit

like a left-handed Billy Bunter, had hardly taken guard before he was thumping the ball to the boundary. He has a good array of strokes and an uncomplicated and forthright method which brought him 67 runs in 65 balls with eight fours and one six.

At the start, after Allan Donald's first three overs had been safely negotiated. Lehmann and Vaughan turned their attention to Gladstone Small and Ashley Giles. Small's first over included three wides and his spell of four overs cost 26 runs. At the pavilion end, Giles, like many left-arm spinners down the years, found it difficult to bowl to a fellow left-hander.

Giles was unlucky, however, in that he had Lehmann dropped at long on by Graeme Welch when 40 and again when 51. Then, when Donald returned, Lehmann square drove for four, sliced over third man for six and cut for four in his expensive second over before Giles was finally rewarded when Brown held another steepling drive behind the bowler.

Vaughan was sensibly content to allow Lehmann to have his drove especially well when he had the chance before being bowled through a walking forward stroke against one which then, Peter Hartley and Anthony McGrath had made pleasant contributions and only seven

Benson & Hedges Cap

Derbyshire v Worcestershire DERBY: Derbyshire bt Worcestershire by

DERBYSHIRE (Overright: 32 for 0) K.J. Barnett b Hick Adams low b Newport M Jones low b Leatherdale A Khan b Leatherdale P Clarke c Weston b Haynes K M Kricken not out A J DeFreitas b Solanki

Bowling Newport 10-1-36-2; Haynes 10-1-47-1; Lampitt 5-0-19-0; Britishey 2-0-14-0; Hick 10-0-49-1; Leatherdale 9.4-0-33-4; Solanki 3-0-17-1. WORKLESTERSHINE
I'T M Moody c Jones b Roberts
W P C Weston b Malcoxim
A Hick c Jones b Malcoxim
I'R Haynes Haw b Dean
Y S Solania b Clarke
K R Spinnig b Roberts
D A Leatherdale b Clarke

O A Leatherdale b Clarke tS J Rhodes b Hards P J Nawport c Knikken b DeFreites S R Lampitt c Jones b Hards

Did not bet: G (Macmillan, 1P A Nixon, D) Milins, A D Mullally, M T Brimson.

Bowling Brown 10-0-49-2; Miken 10-0-52-0; Walker 10-0-54-2; Fotar 9-0-64-0; Borling 8-0-40-0; Collingwood 3-0-17-0.

Fall 1-8, 2-36, 3-78, 4-122, 5-130, 6-143, 7-143, 8-178, 9-209. Bowling: DeFrenzs 9-1-33-1; Malcohn 10-1-38-2; Harns 9-5-1-30-2; Dean 4-0-16-1; Roberts 8-0-52-2; Clarke 8-0-35-2. s: R A White and J F Steele. Durham v Leicestershire CHESTER-LE-STREET: Leicesterabire Durham by 19 rums (due to snow, Durham revised target was 282 from 48 overs). Durham won loss.

head. None the less, he cut and Neil Smith had held back. By more were needed.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

DURHAM

J J B Lewis c Dakin b Multally

P D Cohingwood c Macmillan b Brimson

J E Morns c Habub b Srimson

M J Foster c Nibon b Dakin

"D C Boon c Nibon b Dakin

"D C Boon c Nibon b Dakin

th P Speight c Habib b Multally

N J Soeak c Dakin b Wells

J Bohing c Brimson b Multally

N Nileen run dut

S J E Brown not out

Bowling: Multally 10-0-53-3; Millins 7-3-23-O; Wells E-0-50-1; Johnson 5-0-38-0; Brim-son 9-0-41-2; Dakin 9-0-53-2. Umpires: D J Constant and A A Jones.

Glamorgan v ireland CARDIFF: Gismorgan bt freiand by 6th

Falt: 1-2, 2-15, 3-70, 4-134, 5-161, 6-162, 7-163, 8-172, 9-194.

Bowling: Wagar 10-0-42-1; Wadun 10-1-26-3; Parlin 7-1-25-1; Butcher 4-0-20-1; Cost 10-0-50-1; Date 9-1-27-2. GLAMORGAN
R D B Croft c Patterson b Cronje
H Morris of McCrum
A Dele c Patterson b McCirs
M P Maymard c Heastey b Berson
P A Cottey not out
S P James not out
S P James not out
Total (for 4, 30.3 overs)

Pall: 1.73, 2-73, 3-164, 4-150.
Did not bat: G P Butcher, †A D Shaw, †
Youns, S L Wathin, O T Parkin, Bowling: Gilespe 4-0-24-0; Cooke 2-0-25-0; Crone 5-0-36-1; McCrum 7-0-35-1; Heasley 2-0-18-0; McIrrs 8-0-40-1; Benson 4-3-0-22plines: T E Jesty and K E Paimer

Northants v Scotland NORTHAMPTON: Northamp land by five wickets. SCOTLAND 160 for 9.

Did not bet: JE Emburey, †D Ripley, J P Taylor, D Follett. Bowling: Thomson 10-0-45-3; Gourtay 4-1-24-0; Hurtbatt 5-0-28-1; Govan 5-0-17-1; Wilhamson 8.4-0-46-0. Umpires: A Clarkson and D R Shepherd. Gold award: M B Love.

Minor Counties y Lanc WALSALI: Lancashire bt the Milnor Counties by 35 tuns. Lancashire won toss

Overnight: 1 for 0) S J Dean c Hegg b Green W Larkins c Crawley b Yat R Gaywood c Hegg b Austin I Coclosun c Faithrother b Ma W Ecclestone low b Maron one low b Maron ... G W Ecclestone Rev b Martin 9

R N Dainon c Crawley b Waserm 25

P J Nacholson Ibw b Austin 1

N V Radiond b Martin 10

I C Feeding Ibw b Austin 0

M A Sharp not Cut 16

A J Murphy b Green 11

Edinas Ib7, Ib5, w11, nb5) 29

Total (43.3 overs) 175

Falt 1-60, 2-91, 3-102, 4-102, 5-133, 6-134, 7-135, 8-142, 9-172.

Bowling: Wasim 8-1-35-1; Austin 10-3-33-3; Grean 5-3-0-33-2; Martin 10-1-41-3; Yares 10-3-21-1. Umpires: J.C Balderstone and J.H Hampshire

Warwickshire v Yorkshire EDGBASTON: Yorkshire bi Warwick five wickets.

WARWICKSHIPE 233 for 8 in M k Smith 57).

YORKSHIPE (Overnight: 14 for 0)

**D Byas is Brown

**P Vaughan is Smith 6465

**S Lehmenn c Brown is Gless 67

**P I Hartiely is Smith 22

**A McGrath c Gless is Brown 20

**C White not out 8

**R I Blakey not out 9

**Extras (67, 189, w6, nb4) 25

**Total (for 5, 46.3 overs) 237

**Palt 1-17, 2-134, 3-173, 4-24, 5-227.

**Palt 1-17, 2-134, 3-173, 6-29, 6-297.

**Did not bet is Parker, D Goush, CE W 94-Did not bet: B Parker, D Gough, C E W Sil-verwood, R D Stemp. werwood, if 1 stemp. Bowling: Donald 10-3-38-0; Welch 6-0-27-0; Brown 7-3-1-40-2; Giles 10-0-49-1; Small 4-1-26-0; Smith 9-0-42-2. Umpires: G I Burgess and P Wiley Gold award: M P Vaughan.

Group D byshre v Warencishre, Bristok Gi silve v Kert, Dowmpatrick i retent Old Trafford: Lancashre v Worse Lord's: Middleser, v Someser, North Northamponshine v Lalcestarbre. (Thereog): Sortland v Nortinghams Orah: Surrey v Sussex, Headingley; v Monor Courties.

Other matches BAIN HOGG TROPHY (One day): The Oval: MCC Young Cricketer 207: Surrey 210 for 3 (JD Ratcliffe 75) Surrey won by seven who

STARTING TODAY

County Championship DERBY: Derbyshire v Surrey. HARTLEPOOL: Durham v Notingha NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Som

Other first-class matches First day of three THE PARKS: Oxford University v Warner (11.30).

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of Sactorial of Chelmsford: Esser v Durham. Pon-typridd: Gumorgan v Yorkshire. Southampon: Harmsonire v Wordsriens. Southampon: Harmsonire v Wordsriens. Heleaster: Lacostershire v Kent. Trent Bridge: Not-ungarenshire v Lacoster. Teurither Sornerse v Glocestershire. The Orat Surray v Derbyshire.

Cronje's best not enough for Ireland

ADAM SZRETER

Hansie Cronje's gold awardwinning 85 off just 96 balls failed to prevent Glamorgan coasting to victory over Ireland in the rain-affected Benson and Hedges Cup Group D match at Cardiff.

Cronje's innings, which included three sixes and six fours, coupled with Angus Dunlop's rapid-fire 31 not out, helped Ireland to 202 for 9. But Glamorgan were rarely troubled as they reached their * target with 19.2 overs remaining, courtesy of a third-wicket stand of 91 in just 15 overs between Matthew Maynard (50) and Adrian Dale

The Minor Counties' hopes of an upset in their Group A game with Lancashire at Walsall were blown away by a devastating three-wicket spell

from Ian Austin.
Chasing the holders' modest 210 for 7, the Minor Counties seemed on course for victory when they reached 60 for 0 and then 91 for 1, but they then crashed to 142 for 8. Austin produced a decisive second spell of six overs, three maidens, three wickets for four runs and with Peter Martin also capturing three wick-ets, the hosts finished 35 runs

Derbyshire stayed in the chase for a quarter-final place after beating Worcestershire by 20 runs, despite Tom needed in just 39 balls.

Moody's 77. Kim Barnett followed his century against Lan-cashire and 88 against Yorkshire with 59, and with gold award winner Vince Clark hitting 52 off 39 balls, the home side reached 231.

Worcestershire were always behind the run-rate, but with Moody at the crease, they had a chance, although once he was fifth out after a 110-ballstay, the visitors then lost their last five wickets for 81-

In Group B Leicestershire maintained their 100 per cent; record to guarantee their quarter-final place, despite a late fightback from Durham at Chester-le-Street.
Aftab Habib's 111 and skip-

per Vince Wells' 90 pushed. Leicestershire to the impressive total of 287 for 4 and after two overs were lost tosnow, Durham were left chasing a revised target of 282. John Morris (62), Nick

Speak (59) and Martin Speight (33) helped push Durham to within 19 runs of victory and although suffering their second defeat, they could still qualify with Leicester-

shire from the group.

Northamptonshire are still in the running as well after requiring just 27 minutes to wrap up a five-wicket win over-Scotland Resuming on 126 for 5 chasing Scotland's 160, gold award winner Mal_Loye (45no) and Jeremy Snape (27no) polished off the runs

متكذا من الاحل

Doherty's joy is hard on Hendry

Guy Hodgson reports on the Irishman who deposed a snooker legend

It is a measure of the man that when he was beaten everyone assumed something was wrong with Stephen Hendry. Was he ill? Was there something on his mind? How could he perform so, well, un-Hendry like?

31emen

The immediate focus was on Ken Doherty after his 18-12 win in the final of the Embassy World Championship on Monday, but Hendry's lacklustre performance formed a substantial backcloth. The champion had not lost at Sheffield's Crucible since 1991; to succumb at the last within touching dis-tance of a record seventh title was cruel but fascinating.

The BBC do not have the verified viewing figures for the final, but their interim estimate is that eight million

tuned in for the climax, confirming an upturn in interest in the game. Like Steve Davis at his peak, people have nothing against Hendry except they want to see him beaten. As the sixtimes champion said sardonically: "It will be a pop-

ular result. As indeed Doherty will be a popular champion. The 27- the back cushion proved to be year-old from just outside Dublin had remained relatively unknown to the vast majority of even regular snooker it and my heart dropped. I was watchers, thanks largely to his poor showings at the World Championship. He had been to Sheffield six times previously and had never got beyond the quarter-finals, but if ever a victory was borne on the back of

hard labour it was this one. It is hard to believe that six weeks before collecting his £210,000 winner's cheque, Doherty's manager was despairing

TODAY'S NUMBER 50,000

.....

best no

or Ireland

The pounds bet by Bedford chairman Frank Warren on his side beating Bristol in tonight's Courage League rugby union play-off, at 5-4. Warren won the same sum from Mickey Duff on Saturday after his box-er; Robin Reid, beat Duff's man, Henry Wharton.

of him. There is little wrong with him, Ian Doyle said, but "he could sleep for Ireland". As a last resort he lambasted Doherty in the Irish press and got

a reaction that was remarkable. For four weeks Doherty stopped going home to Ireland and instead practised seven hours a day with Ronnie O'Sullivan at liford Snooker Club. The effect was Doherty's title only his second ranking tournament since turning professional in 1990 - while O'Sullivan knocked in the fastest competitive maximum in history.

Up to the final, Doherty had played the best snooker at the Crucible, but beating the likes

down

ergy.

seemingly run-

ning out of en-

response was to

win five frames

in a row and to

recail memo-

ries of his fight-

back from 14-8

down against

Jimmy White in

the 1992 final.

and

of Davis is not **Doherty fact file** the same as defeating Hendry. That was shown 1989: Became World Amateur Cham-pion. when the champion was 15-7

1992-93: Won first ranking tourne ment, the Regal Weish Open. 1993-94: Seaten by January White in World Championship quarter-finals. 1994-95: Went out of World Cham-

1990-91: Turned professional and lost to Steve Daws in first round of World

1995-96: Won the Dr Marten's European League. 1998-97: Captained Ireland to finel

> At 15-12, the tide was with the holder, but missing the third last red along the high water mark. "I was shaking like a leaf," Doherty said. "I had lost a bad frame just before pretty low. If he had got within two frames it could have gone ei-

> Fortunately for Doherty his nerve held for a break of 17 and, having gone four ahead again he fell over the line to become the first world champion from the Republic of Ireland. "It's marvellous for my family." he said. "They were all out there playing. They were potting every ball." For Doherty the immediate

future is a trip to Dublin to join the family celebrations, and a year to balance his new found enthusiasm for work against the commercial opportunities his status will bring. Meanwhile, Hendry will spend the next 12 months toiling to depose him.
"It's not disastrous, but it is

disappointing," said Hendry, who has won five other tournaments this season. "I'd swap the world title for the other events, but I'm No 1 in the world by a country mile and that's a consolation to take away. I've had a season that many other players would die for. I'm only 28. I'm not gone yet."



Upwardly mobile: Andrea Congreaves, from Epsom, will play for Charlotte Sting next month

Jump up for Congreaves

She was 16 and about 5ft 10in. When she dunked the ball hrough a 10ft-high basket during a session at Paul Stimpson's Crystal Palace Basketball School, the England international knew he had found someone special.

Ten years on, Andrea Congreaves has proved him right. Next month, the Epsom-born Congreaves, now 6ft 2in, begins her professional career in Women's National Basketball Association. She will earn over £1,000 per week for the 10week campaign.

Stimpson and Congreaves have clear memories of that night at the National Sports Centre. But Stimpson and the Crystal Palace's women's coach, her talent would dwarf the English Women's League.

After playing for three English clubs between 1987 and 1989, Congreaves won all-American honours with Mercer

Richard Taylor on the Briton hoping to succeed in the inaugural women's NBA

played in Italy and Spain for four years but will add to her 25 England caps in the European Championships this month. "Paul had come to coach

basketball at Carshalton High School in our hunch hours. I'd never even seen basketball then," Congreaves recalled. America for the Charlotte Sting in the inaugural season of the running 200 metres, throwing the javelin, doing the high jump

- going for any sport I could. But basketball hooked me right from the first. It was the thrill of it, the speed, the physical side, especially compared to netball which was so static." Stimpson, 37, still England's

most capped international play-Mark Clark, soon realised that er, said: "She was very tall, extremely athletic and incredibly talented for basketball and I persuaded her to come to Palace for more intense coaching. It was actually an under-pumped volleyball that she dunked, so she University in Atlanta. She has could grip it with one hand."

Dunking is beyond the reach and athleticism of all but a few women players, even in practice. Congreaves said: "We were doing a jumping drill and I kept touching the rim, which I wasn't

I grabbed the rim and pulled the basket down, which I definitely wasn't supposed to be able to do.
"People in the gym started calling out in 'give her a ball, give her a ball.' So I ran in and dunked it, right-handed. I landed, looked round and the whole gym had stopped. No one was moving, everyone was looking." But she's never tried it in a game.

supposed to be able to do. Then

"Far too scared," she added. Congreaves continued, "Tve always had a problem with selfconfidence. I'd go along at my own pace, convinced I was developing OK, until someone convinced me otherwise." When the WNBA scouted her at Italian club Como, she assumed they were looking at two team-mates.

Clark, now assistant to Billy Mimms at the Budweiser League champions, the Leopards, also coached Congreaves at Brixton. "Mark and Paul were always telling me I had the talent to go to the top. When I was only 17 Mark said: You know you're good enough to play in Italy, but I'd just look at him and say, no. I don't know that."

Last season, with Como. she reached the last four of the Eubeen drafted to the eight-team WNBA, along with two other Continentals - Eva Nemcova, of the Czech Republic and Frances Isabelle Fijakowski.

Congreaves, now a veteran at the highest level of European basketball, knows what to expect next month. "This league will be like taking all the most talented players and all the most talented teams you've ever faced and playing them every single

"Words can't explain how I feel because I still can't believe

Martyn has more cause to celebrate

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Tommy Martyn, St Heiens' man of the match in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, has two further reasons for reflecting that this has not been a bad week.

Martyn, who won the Lance Todd rophy for his outstanding display at Wembley, has been told that he has no case to answer over a suspected dangerous tackle for which he was placed on report.

Saints have also revealed that they plan to improve his contract at the club. Martyn and the Great Britain tour fullback. Steve Prescott, are among the lowest paid first-teamers at Knowsley Road and Prescott has been on the transfer list since the end of last season.

Saints have been determined to keep their wage bill within bounds that they can afford, but their chief executive, David Howes, said that the deals for both players would now be

renegotiated.

The choice of a new Great Britain coach is to be delayed. Phil Larder's contract finishes at the end of this month, but the league's director of development, Joe Lydon, who will have a big say in the appointment, wants to see how candidates fare against Australasian opposition in the World Club Championship matches, which start next month.

He said: "While it would be nice to have the coaches in place quickly so that we can get a squad together, it would be foolish not to take the opportunity of seeing how the coaches perform in the World Club

Championship," Lydon said. The Salford coach, Andy Gregory, whose side have enhanced his reputation with their form in Super League, has been regarded as the front run-ner for the job, which will start with a tour by Australia in October and November, but Lydon has stressed that no decisions have yet been made.

"I envisage coming up with something towards the end of July, with an appointment per-

haps in early August," he said. Andy Goodway, who would until recently have been seen as a contender, but who was sacked by Oldham last mouth, has had informal talks with the Wigan coach, Eric Hughes, about playing a part at Central Park. The Wigan chairman, Jack Robinson, said it was unlikely, however, that Goodway would be joining them.

Capriati capitulates in the first round

Jennifer Capriati was beaten in straight sets by her fellow American Chanda Rubin in the first round of the Italian Open in Rome yesterday. Capriati, who made her European professional debut at the same event in 1990, held three set points at 5-3 and 40-0, but then fell away badly, losing 7-6, 6-2.

Capriati is now ranked 28th in her latest comeback, but her inability to capitalise on promising positions was all too apparent here. Having secured her three set points she then lost the next eight points in succession. ropean Super League. Club-mate Catarina Pollini has also defending champion and fourtimes winner of the event, Conchita Martinez of Spain, in the second round.

The top eight seeds had first-round byes. One seed fell in yesterday's action, with Belgium's Dominique Van Roost beating the No 15, Nathalie Tauziat of France, 6-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Martina Hingis has pulled out of next week's German Open in Berlin, missing a possible showdown with her predecessor as No 1 in the world, Steffi Graf, the organisers said yesterday. Hingis, the 16-year-old Swiss sensation, injured her knee in a

riding accident and was also forced to miss Rexona Cup in Hamburg last week and this week's Italian Open in Rome. By failing to play in Berlin, Hingis will not have any match practice before the French Open, which starts on 26 May. Graf has not played since February because of a knee injury and is hoping to make her comeback in Berlin.

Britain's Federation Cup team beat Egypt 3-0 in their second Pool A match in Europe/Africa group two in Antalya, Turkey yesterday. It was Britain's second successive 3-0 win after beating Lithuania yesterday as they again overwhelmed their opponents.

Julie Pullin beat Yassmin Abdulla 6-1, 6-1 in the opening match, which was quickly followed by British No 1 Sam Smith defeating Mawa El Wany by the same score.

The doubles pairing of Clare Wood and Lorna Woodroffe then went one better as they lost just a single game to Abdulla and El Wany, winning 6-1, 6-0.

Britain, top seeds in the sixstrong pool, have to win all five matches this week if they are to gain promotion to Europe/Africa group one, with today's opponents Estonia likely to provide stronger opposition than Lithuania or Egypt.

Tyson's green light for bout with Holyfield

Mike Tyson's doctor has given the heavyweight clearance to resume contact training in preparation for his rematch against Evander Holyfield on 28 June. The title bout, scheduled for

3 May, was postponed when Tyson reopened a cut over his left eye sustained in his loss to Holyfield. It was the second time Tyson had postponed a fight with Holyfield, and the latest in a string of delays for the former champion. Bruised ribs forced Tyson to pull out of a date with Holyfield in 1991, and bronchitis prevented him from facing Bruce Seldon last July.

The former heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe, and his sister were reconciled yesterday after a weekend dispute in which both reportedly suffered split lips. Bowe and his sister, Velma Melton, said in a statement that they "remain loving and supportive of each other".

Basebail

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Konses City 2 Bosson O: Angheim 7 Battimore 2: Mannescta 9 New York Yankes 8; Tomora 3 Delmot 1; Mayeukes 11 Caldand
7. Postponed: Texas v Claveland.
AMTRONAL LEAGUE: Flords 3 Prosburgh O:
Houston 9 Pridedelphot 2: Alenma 2: St Louis 1;
New York Mess 6 Coloredo 1; Los Angeles 3 Circlineli 1; San Francisco 4 Montreeli 2.
AMERICAN LEAGUE
EASTERN DIVISION CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION NATIONAL LEAGUE EASTERN DIVISION 13 .581 -15 .500 2¹/₂ 17 .433 4¹/₂ 21 .300 8¹/₂ 22 .241 10

Nick Nurse has resigned as coach of Budweiser League Club Birmingham Bul-lets to Join Sunair Ostend of Belgium.]

Cycling
DUNKINK FOUR DAYS RACE First stage
(Rootington-sur-mer; 1.52.5km) Leading positions: 1 W Pesters (Bel) Mapel; 34 T-25min
23ee; 2 N Mesters (Bel) Mapel; 37 T-25min
(Ukr) Lotto both same time; 4 L Genty (Fr)
Bigmart +2sec; 5 C Vasseur (Fr) Gen 9: 6 F
Vandenbroucke (Bel) Mapel; 7 C Mengen (Fr)
Fisnicate des Jeur; 8 M Piccoli (IU) Brischalt;
9 J Van Den Alder (Netth) Foreidonado all seme-Francase des Jeur, 2 M Procos (1) prescepan; 9 J Van Den Alder (Neth) Foredorado all seme brne; 10 T Bourguspon (1/1 Bignet, 10. Over-all standings: 1 Peeters 3 in 25min 1 3eec; 2 Matten +4sec; 3 Tohnil +6sec; 4 Centy 12; 5 Vandenbroucke 16; 6 Vasseur 18; 7 Mengin 19; 8 Procoti; 9 Van Den Akker; 10 Fredenc Moncassin (Fr) Gan all seme time.

Cesar Luis Menotti, the Argentine coach, is expected to join Sampdoria as soon as the Italian League season ends next month. Sven Goran Eriksson, of Sweden, is leaving the Genoa-based club to move to Lazio. Zdenek Zeman, the Czech coach who

Zdenek Zernan, the Czech coach who was sacked earlier this year by Lazo, the Italian Serie A side, is to coach their city mals, 'Roma, next season.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premierable: Man Ltd 3 Middlesbrough 3. Bell's Scottish League Premier Division: Rangers 0 Motherwel 2. FAI Harp National League Physoffs Second Leg: Veterford 1. Durdok 0 logit 1.31. League of Wallet: Barry Town 5 Corney 0. Awas Insurance Combination Flest Division: Cheston 0 ipsuch 0; QPR 2 Southampton 1. Herbenic League Premier Division Cup Flace Irentony Rengers 0 Swindon Supermarre 1. Jewson Wessex League Cup Flacit: Ryde Sp 0 Thatcham Town 4 (at Sesteigh). North Wiest Counties League Pret Division: Porth Counties League Pret Division: Porth Victorial Calt, Mossley v Safort C, Interfinit Express Middled League Cap Flacit: Bloswich Town 1 Witerhall Town

SPORTING DIGEST

 (Wilenhal win 4-2 on pens), Northiern Counties Seat League Premier Division: Brigg T 1 Huckell 7 O. Pertins League Premier Division: Blackburn Roues 0 Manchets: United 1. Peatponed: Leade v Stoke, Livernool v Derby, First Division: Maddlesbrough 1 Pread 1. Postponed: Leeds v Stole, Liverpool v Derly, First Dilvialou: Middlesbrugh 1 Preston 0. Second Distalou: Smestpury 3 Rotherson 0. Second Distalou: Smestpury 1 Rotherson 0. Second Distalou: Smestpury 1 Rotherson 0. Western 4 Stockport 0; York 3 Burrley 2. Unijed Steneoux County Lengue First Division: Burgess Hill Town 1 Citimond 0; Peacehaven 4. Telecombe 1 Hallstram Town 1; Whastonieed Kent Lengue First Division: Chathern Town 0; Sace Green 2 Woolwich Town 1. Jerson South Western Lengue Cup Firmal: Palmouth 3 Truro City 2 (act), Sussex Senior cup Firmal: St Leonards Starrcroft 2 Stitleen United 1. Wemen's presider Lengue National Division: Tranner Rocers 0 Arsenal 3. Spenials Lengue: Extremature 1. Bercelons 3. Lending positions: 1 Real Madrid (P 36, Pts R3); 2 Barrelona (36-75); 3 Real Betts (36-72).

Ice hockey NHL Stanley Cup Play-off: Eastern Con-ference seral-linels: Philadelpha 2 Buffalo 1 (Philadelphia isad bast-of-awer) series 2-01.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: (Helsinid) Canada 1 Finland O. (Tempere) Slovakia 2 Nor

RaBying
TOUR OF CORSICA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
RALLY (Ajacclo) Leading positions: 1.= F
Delecour (Fr) Peugeot 306 2rt 55rmin 3sec,
C Saint (Sp) Ford Iscort came time; 3 G Panizi
(Fr) Peugeot 306 2:56:10; 4 C McRee (GB)
Subaru Impreza 2:50:34; 6 P Bugsleid (Fr) Renaut Megene 3:00:34; 6 P Bugsleid (Fr) Renaut Megene 3:00:32; 7 Uwe Nittel (Ger)
Mitsubishi Lancer 3:05:21; 8 S Jorden (Fr)
Resoutt Megane 3:05:25; 9 A Schwarz (Ger)
Ford Escort 3:08:22; 10 F Markent (Fr) Subaru Impreza 3:08-21.

Rugby League MONDAYS LATE RESULT: Stones Super League: Leads 30 Pars 2.

Mark Egan, the Terenure College No. 8, has been forced out of the Ireland development squad for the forthcoming tour to New Zealand and Western Samos. The former Oxford University captain, who recently returned to Dublin after several years in Japan, damaged a knee in a club match. His place has gone to the 28-year-old Dean Macantney, who has been capped at schools and student levels, and is a regular member of the Uister side.

Ofivier de Kersauson, the French skipper, is set to break, by a considerable margin, the record of 74 days 22hr 17min 22sec set by Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston in the 92-foot catamaran Enza on 1 April 1994. In his tourth attempt to win the Jules Verne Trophy, De Kersauson crossed the Equator on his way back up the Atlantic to the finish at Brest at 06.16 GMT yesterday. His 92-foot trimaran Sport-Elec needs to average just 10 knots, 240 miles a day, for the remainder of the journey to break the record after aver-aging 362 miles a day for the journey so faz Good winds are forecast and he has until 21 May.

One of the leading challengers hoping to take the America's Cup from New Zealand has pulled out of the 1999-2000 contest, claiming "exterior" by Auckland authorities for port facilities. The Australian team, led by lain Murray, the former world champion, has cancelled its launching. So far, 11 yacht syndicates have signed

FED CUP Europe/Africa group two (Antalys, Tar) Pool A: Britain 3 Egypt 0 (GB names first:) Pulier bt Abdulla 6-1, 6-1; S small tx M 5 Wary 6-16-1; C Wood and L Woodroffe bt Abdulla and El Wary 6-1 6-0). on Accounts also by leasy 6-1 8-0.

GERMAN OPEN MEHRS TOURNAMENT
(Hamburg) Singles, first round: S Dosedal
(C2 Repl) to R Pulsan (t) 7-6 6-2. N Medier (Ger)
to M Marsels (t) 4-6 7-6 6-2. M Craca (Ger)
bt M-K Goetner (Ger) 6-4 6-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

7.30 unless state UEFA CUP FINAL FIRST LISS Schalice O4 v Interazzionnie (7.45) ; FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Leicester v Shoffield Wednesday (7. BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE HEIMER DIVISION hite v Kilmarnock (7.45)... modee Utd v Rangers

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Sneppeyv Cr PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: L Derby (7.0): Liverpool v Everton. First Div on v West Bromwich (7.0). Taird Division: terfield v Rochdale (7.0). AVON RISURANCE COMBINATION First Di-visions Cardiff v Charleon (2.0); Luton v Chelsee (2.0); Mithesil v Norunch (2.0); Southempton v Wimbledon; Wast Hard v Wasdors (2.0), League Cup final: Stoke v York (7.0).

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division

Rugby League SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Hunslet (7.30). Rugby Union

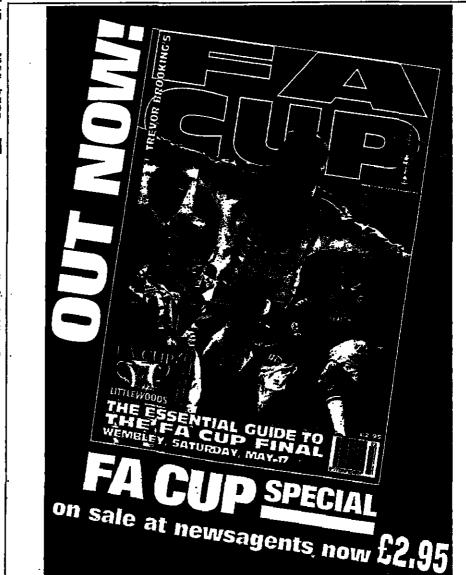
7,30 unless states AGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP NE uy v London HISTL WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Plest Division: Eb-bw Vele v Brigand (7.0); Nasth v Lanelli (7.0); Portygnidd v Newport (7.0); Cardiff v Swansea (7.0).

Speedway

ELITE LEAGUE: Poole v Bradford (7.30). PREMIER LEAGUE NOVOCIA-OUT CUP: Hull v Stoke (7.30); Long Eaton v Arene Essex (7.45). ITALIAN OPEN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Rome) Studies, first round: N Arendt (US) bt L Golerae (t) 6-3 6-2; J Kruger (SA) ot Ar Sugyame (Japan) 6-3 6-2; P Schryder (Swit) bt Yayuk Besuki (Indon) 6-0 6-1; G Pizzohni (ti) bt A Fusel (Fr) 3-6 6-2 7-5; B Paulus (Aut) bt C Berneti (US) 3-6 6-3 7-5; C Rubin (US) bt J Capmeti (US) 7-6 6-2; R Dregomir (Rom) bt A Carepe (ti) 6-3 6-0. Second round: D Var Roost (Bello bt N Tauzet (Fr) 6-7 6-1, 6-2; M Pierce (Fr) bt S Cecthru (ti) 6-1 6-1; M Oremans (Neth) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-3 3-6 7-6; L Nelland (Lat) bt F Perfect (ti) 6-2 3-6 6-2.

(Coral Springs, Fia) Mean's stugles, first round: P Korda (Cz Rep) bt N Godwn (SA) 6-3 6-4; S Sengsian (Arm) bt N Godwn (SA) 3-6 6-3 6-3; B Black (Zim) bt M Ondware (SA) 6-3 6-2; J Albert Wilcos (So) bt G Schaller (Aut) 7-6 6-2; L Jeresen (US) bt S Simian (Fr) 6-7 7-8 5-3; M Woodfords (Aus) bt D van Scheppunsen (Meth) 2-2 7-2 8-3

COPERS & LYBRAND CHAMPIONS MEN'S CUSTOS FOR CARD STREET ST



DONCASTER 6.00: 1. MRGHTY SURE (Derren Moffatt)
25-1; 2. Swift Time 4-1; 3. Miss Berveled
20-1: 13 mm. 7-4 fav Adrendin. NK, 3%. (P
Calver): Tota: £83.60; £15.60, £1.30, £6.90. Dual Forecest: £137.70. Computer hight Forecast: £116,49. Tho: Not won. Pool of £261.48 carried forward to morrow. 8.30: 1 FAME AGAIN (I Fortune) 3-1 fax; 2 Somerton Boy 10-1: 3. Ochos Ries 14-2. Sometron Boy 10-1: 4. Nicepen Rocks 33-1. 21 van. Nic. Ya. 14. Nicepen Rocks 33-1. 21 van. Nic. Ya. (Mrs. J. Ramsden). Totas: £4.10; £1.20, £1.20, £3.60, £2.50, £8.00. DF: £36.00. CSP. £3.60, £2.50, £8.00. DF: £36.00. CSP.

£31.93. Tricost £377.36. NR: Gain Line. Tric E224.60. BINT ALBIDAAYA (L Dettori) 13-Size: 2. The Lumbton Worm 11-2: 3. Alpine Hidnesury 12-1. 6 zan. 5, 1, (M Strute, Nov-market). Tote: £2.10: £1.20, £3.00. Dual forceast £10.30. CSF: £10.45. Non Run-ner for The Element

7.30: 1 AUGUSTAN (K Falor) 7-1: 2 Tappoto 12-1; 3. Shaffishinges 9-4 tav. 11 ran. Hd. 29. (5 Golings), Tota: £6.50; £2.20, £5.30, £1.40, DF. £63.90, CSP. £63.44, Th

cast: £230.43. Trio: £78.60. WINCANTON:

5,45: 1. MRS EM (L. Cummins) 3-10 tay; 2. Red Tel 3-1; 3. Admiral Brury 20-1, 3 ran. 114, 8. (P Microsis). Total £1.30. DF: £1.10. CSP: £1.45. MR: John Drumm. 6.15: 1. LITTLE ROWLEY (M Richards) 5-1: 2. Miners Rest 2-1: 3. Frontier Flight 5-6 few 3 rain. 1/4, clist. (Mrs. L. Richards). Total: £4.70. DF: £2.90. CSF: £11.76. NR: Call Me

RACING RESULTS

3-10 tav. 2. Willows Roulette 7-2: 3. Carnived Clown 10-1, 3 ren. 2, 16, (P Nichola). Tota: £1.30, DP: £1.10, CSP: £1.64, NR: Maid For Adventure, No. 2 Maid For Adventure was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not apply, no market formed.

woody, who on Monday completed his

BDDV, TO MEIRE TOTTHE!

7.16: 1. CLOBRACKEN LAD (Mr.G Beines)
15:8 it far, 2: Link Copper 11:4; 3. Chisen
15:8 it far, 4 ran, 2, 3. (Mrs. J Swaffield).
Tota: £2.60. DF: £6.00. CSP: £6.38. NR:

Richard Dunwoody missed his planned ride at Wincanton last night ofter having a spill in his racing car. The former champion jockey was practising his new role as a racing driver at the Goodwood circuit when he left the track and crashed into a bank. Although he escaped with a stiff neck and back Dun-

lier in the day. Candy Morris made it a real family affair at Brighton yesterday when winning aboard Apollo Red owned by her father, former handler Charlie Moore, and trained by her brother, Gary.

eight successive century of winners.

missed the ride on James Plag in the Chedington Handicap Chase. His oth-

er planned mount at the meeting, Coun-

try Tarquin was declared a non-runner for the Rockbourne Handicap Hurdle earRugby Union

Tiger Stransky

The Springbok view of the Pilkington Cup final, page 24

sport

Women can jump Richard Taylor on a Briton in the new WNBA, page 27



plan

League clubs must change or 'go bust'

Football

ANDREW MARTIN

Life outside the Premiership just gets harder. Yesterday Nationwide League clubs were bluntly informed that their futures could not be guaranteed unless they embraced radical plans for the wholesale overhaul of the three divisions below the élite.

The changes would see clubs currently in the Vauxhall Conference invited to join an enlarged League, split regionally at the lowest tier. Any opponents of the plan were told they risked sending the League into an abyss from which it would not

Strong words indeed, which came from Gerry Boon of the management consultants Deloitte Touche, commissioned in January to draft the independent report. Its findings, sent to all 72 League chairmen last week, will be debated at a ' special meeting, addressed by

Boon, in London tomorrow. The scale of the proposed changes is certain to provoke an outery in some quarters, but Boon warned: "If these recommendations are not accepted I think that within a few years 20 clubs will have very serious financial problems and poten-

There are already 20 clubs where the Inland Revenue could send in the liquidators,

support of the Professional Footballers' Association to survive, while the vast majority are running at an operating loss.

"In simple terms, there is not a standstill option. The League either goes forwards into the future, or backwards."

The proposals are: The League will be "reinvigorated" by being expanded to include Vauxhall Conference clubs:

■ The current First and Second Divisions will be unchanged, but the Third Division would be regionalised, with clubs run on a part-time basis allowed to join: Promotion and relegation issues would be extended to ensure fewer "meaningless"

games;

Play-offs for both promotion and relegation. Up to five clubs could move each way from di-

visions within the League; ■ The Coca-Cola Cup would be given an extra two-legged first round to accommodate the increased number of League members;

First Division and Premiership clubs would be allowed a phased entry from the thirdround stage, with all ties from that point settled on the night. There would be no replays:

● A commercially qualified chief executive would be appointed to head the new-look League, with an independent chairman and commercial director;

and more than 10 who need the The organisation and ad-





Deng Yaping on her way to victory over Wang Nan in the women's singles final at the World Championships

Ravanelli still hopes to be fit for final

TOMMY STANIFORTH

Bryan Robson is hopeful that Fabrizio Ravanelli will be fit to play for Middlesbrough in the FA Cup final against Chelsea on ern Munich at the end of the Saturday week.

The Italian international establish the extent of the hamstring injury he suffered during Monday's 3-3 draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford, Robson, Middlesbrough's manager, revealed the injury was not as serious as first feared. "It's not snapped," he said. "It's not as bad as we first thought and, hopefully, we can get him fit for Wembley.

Ravanelli said: "I was worried when I went to hospital for a scan. I do not know the results of the tests, but I would put my chances of playing at Wembley as 50-50. We will have to wait and see. I will not be fit, though. for our final two Premiership

Jürgen Klinsmann's return to English football is far from cer-

as well as England.

Aston Villa will be forced to sell their Serbian midfielder Sasa Curcic to a foreign club if they fail to obtain a new work permit for their £4m record signing. Curcic has not been selected for the number of firstteam matches required to guarantee another permit.

Liverpool's Robbie Fowler faces a Football Association misconduct charge after being sent off, along with Everton's David Unsworth, for fighting in the Merseyside derby on 16 April. Fowler appeared to lash out at Unsworth as the pair were leaving the pitch - hence the FA charge, which is likely to

tain despite reports that he is set striker had a scan vesterday to ed at the club, has had offers to play in Spain, Italy and Turkey

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

to rejoin Tottenham at the end of the season, sources close to the player said yesterday. The German international captain, season because he is unhappy with the way he has been treat-

Jones. The Plymouth caretaker manager has been given the job on a permanent basis. Jones has been in charge since Neil Warnock, now managing Oldham, was dismissed by Argyle in February. Sheffield Wednesday confirmed that the Monaco defender Patrick Blondeau has

Division Two.

arrived at Hillsborough to undergo a medical. The 29-yearold French international has agreed a three-year contract and deal, believed to be worth £1.8m, providing he passes his medical. Blondeau will not be paraded as a Wednesday player until the end of the season because Monaco, the newly crowned French champions. still have two games remaining.

ministration of the League

fices centralised in London;

into a market-led body, and

Ensuring the League oper-

ates as a professional repre-

benefit from such a bold re-

to Wembley for the first time in the Auto Windscreens Shield.

However, a decline this term -

with one win in their last 16

games - turned initial play-off hopes into relegation from

Happier news for Mick

would be located under one roof, with the traditional head-

Paul Peschisolido has threatened to quit West Bromwich Albion, claiming the club have reneged on a promised wage review. The Canadian striker, now on the transfer list, said he agreed to a wage cut when moving from Birmingham on condition the situation would be reviewed at the end of this season. Billy Stark, Celtic's assistant

manager, will stay at Parkhead until 18 May before stepping

Waldner shines amid the chaos

Jan-Ove Waldner gave the World Championships a lustre it hardly deserved yesterday with his stirring triumph over the young Belarussian Vladimir Samsonov

in the men's singles final. His achievement also banished to the background, the organisational problems that had made the tournament a night-

If only the championships had run as smoothly as Waldner's easy progression to the title. Sadly, it was chaos.

A record 116 countries playing 6,000 matches on 42 tables - the most countries, the most players, the most matches, and the largest collection of results. The 44th championships was

the biggest, but they were far from being the best.

second-round group matches in the team event was so complicated no one could understand it. It produced a scheduling nightmare with teams not knowing who and where they were playing two hours before

the match. The public were also affected. Some who had bought seats

in the main G-Mex arena found them occupied by players.

Yinsheng, the Chinese presi-dent of the International Table Tennis Federation. A players' strike was then threatened unless the ban was rescinded and the organisers were forced into a swift U-turn

officials were banned from oc-

cupying the spectators' stands

and those refused included Xu

to allow them to occupy unreserved seats.

computerised results system failed to work which meant r sults often arrived more that two hours after the match wa over - or never at al).

Even before the competation was completed, an inquest was underway with ITTF executive vice-president. Yapyong Yih of Malaysia, placing some of the fault on the shoulders of his own governing body.

Cow crash puts paid to Makinen

Carlos Sainz of Spain and the Frenchman François Delecour were in joint first place in the Tour of Corsica rally after yesterday's second day saw the hones of the Finnish world champion, Tommi Makinen, ruined.

Sainz, in a four-wheel drive Ford Escort, and Delecour, in a lightweight two-wheel drive Peugeot 306, had exactly the same time after the day's six timed stages in changing conditions with occasional downpours.

Tony Banks was quick to

demonstrate vesterday that his

appointment to high office had

done nothing to dull the in-

stincts of a true football fan.

Asked what he thought of the

facilities at Wembley Stadium.

the new Minister for Sport

At an impromptu press con-ference in his new office, Banks

gave every indication that he

would be a Sports Minister like

none of his predecessors, refus-

ing to allow his elevation to curb his capacity for plain speaking.

"We've got wonderful facilities

replied: "Crap".

Gilles Panizzi of France, the overnight leader, was third, nine seconds back in the second

Peugeot, while Britain's Colin McRae was fourth, a further 10 seconds behind and also still in contention for victory today.

McRae lost time in the morning because of a wrong choice of tyres but then recovered superbly, clocking the best time in four tests in his Subaru Impreza.

Makinen, who had started the day sixth, had to pull out after bumping into a cow with his Mitsubishi Lancer halfway through the day's first test, the longest of this year's rally, over 48.9 kilometres from Vero to Liamone.

injury, but the car was destroyed and they were unable to restart.

Yesterday's gruelling first section on twisting asphalt roads north of Ajaccio went to Sainz, who gained 46 seconds on Panizzi. Delecour was second fastest, 10 seconds slower than Sainz, while Panizzi slipped to third. "I made the wrong choice of tyres," Panizzi said.

Sainz, who was four seconds behind Delecour after Liamone. was slightly faster than the Frenchman in three of the next four stretches despite electrical problems. "The windshield wipers stopped working at one point while it was pouring and the horn blew by itself for some reason, but apart from that, everything was fine." Sainz said.

the unemployed could no

longer afford to attend match-

about the danger of Sky be-

coming too dominant in the tele-vising of football. "Sky has been

great in terms of the presenta-

tion of football, for instance, but

of course they can do that with

"The money they put into football is also great, but I'm still

worried looking down the road about what might happen if more

and more sport is cornered by one

charging more and more."

of the suppliers and they end up

ing the Football Association try

to secure the rights to host the

cheerfully admitted to not be-

Banks is committed to help-

a dedicated sports channel.

Banks also spoke vesterday

es in the Premiership,

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Both Makinen and his co-driver, Seppo Harjanne, escaped

Banks returns to the basics

River erosion (4) 8 Considered French com- 22 Stress to give one trouposer, not having suc-

tom drawer (8) 11 Black Beauty for exam-

10 ... and a painter compa-

ple - English horse, male (6) 12 A horse trained on dry

land (6) 13 Where to rest a bowler when taken off? (8) 15 Elector who is uncommitted, averting lot of

trouble (8-5) 18 Lorries getting punctures around base (8) 20 Farm butter, double

ceeded with scale ... (10) 24 Flare-up abroad, taking holiday (8) triot failing to open bot- 25 County fair of relatively low quality (4-6) 26 Flag lose colour? (4)

DOWN 1 Rules for me changed, being contrite (10) Quick passage from that part of city before noon

Fan sticking (8) To protest is the thing!

Tory's act in reading that

keeps temperature low

The diminutive Elizabeth is topless for the painter (4) Joke-shop supplies in a

shocking glut, to be sorted out (8-5) People bringing up issue of Di's surname, perhaps? (10)

16 Dismissed, prone to be a long way from home

17 Loaf to deteriorate? (8) 19 Is pale, trembling, but making out (6) 21 A tendency to be offcourse (6)

23 The game is up for this

kink (4)

being developed at club level, but crap facilities at national level," he said, "The facilities at Wembley are appalling. I feel ashamed to think Wembley is our national stadium and I think something has to be done about it."

Presumably by himself,

though Wembley, which was confirmed as football's national stadium last December, may ask the minister to reconsider his verdict after its £210m overhaul. Work is due to begin next year, with a completion date tentatively set for 2000. Banks succeeds John Major as

the nation's most powerful Chelsea fan, and was already intending to sample Wembley's delights on Saturday week at the Cup final. As Minister of Sport he can now go every year. Yesterday's press conference

was dominated by questions about football. On the issue of possible return to terraces, Banks said: "I don't think we can go back. I wonder what demand there is for standing areas now. think we've moved on,"

2006 World Cup in England, He However, Banks was worried about the effects that the high cost of tickets would have on the game in the long term, ex-

ing very clear how he would go about this, but acknowledged

the strength of the German op-position. "We're going to have pressing particular concern that

a bit of argy there," he said. & Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Back tisues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Registered as a newspaper with the Proj Other





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